



# DARWEN VALE

An Aldridge Community Academy 

## 1894 NEWSLETTER

END OF TERM July 2024 EDITION



We are pleased to present the Eleventh edition of our 1894 Newsletter. In this edition, you will read about some of the highlights of this term's subject activities and also a few of the exciting trips, work experience and festive themed activities our students have taken part in.

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- London Trip for Year 8 9
- Aladdin Trip
- Alton Towers Trip
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- Sports Day



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# Principal's Message



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Well, what a term and what a year! Firstly, let me apologise for the lack of a principal's piece in the last edition of 1894. I was out of the country supporting our year 10 educational visit to Krakow in Poland, visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Schindler factory.

Our Ofsted report from the visit in January was published in mid-March. If you have not had chance to read it yet it can be accessed here <https://www.darwenvale.com/ofsted> . We were graded good in all areas, a result we were confident of, but no less delighted with. It vindicates the hard work of us all in the school community over the last seven years; parents, staff and students – Team Vale!

The most exciting news has been the addition of our key stage 5 provision in the shape of D6. Students from Darwen Vale now can continue their education at Vale after year 11. We are offering A levels in History, physics, chemistry, biology and maths, and for students who wish to pursue other options we are working in collaboration with DACA and DAES. We have really invested and D6 will have a designated area within Vale with a separate entrance, study suite with PCs and common room with pool table, table tennis and arcade games.

We held a taster day recently which many of our year 11 leavers attended. Talking of year 11 they took full advantage of the opportunities afforded them at Vale. They were the best attending cohort ever at Vale and this bodes well for their examination results, which we anticipate being another significant improvement on previous years. They recently enjoyed a spectacular prom at Dunkenhall Hotel with some pretty impressive entrances – 2 of our boys even turned up in a helicopter.

We are looking to develop cultural opportunities for our students in line with our Ofsted recommendations. To this end we have seen a real upsurge in the number of trips and visits our students have taken part in recently:

- Year 7 – 9 joint visit with Sudell Primary school to see the Disney musical, Aladdin
- Two London trips to see the sights and take in west end shows, Mrs. Doubtfire, and Back to the future
- Year 10 History visit to the Elizabethan Manor House, Hardwick Hall
- Geography field trips to Lytham St Annes
- Wizard of Oz theatre trip
- Year 10 trip to Manchester University
- 'This Girl Can' event at Rofield Leisure Centre in Clitheroe, to increase confidence, engagement and physical activity amongst girls.

# Principal's Message Continued...

These are just a sample of the trips that have taken place, and our students will be out on their summer rewards trips to the Trafford Centre and Blackpool pleasure beach and zoo before the end of term!

It's not just trips though, we have hosted Andy MacNae a local MP, took representatives of Vale to the Council's D-day celebrations and participated in a range of sporting activities – our Year 9 football team narrowly losing out in the town cup final at Ewood Park.

Most recently we hosted our 240 +Year 6 cohort for their taster day. What a great bunch of kids! They all had a great day – leaving with their own coats of arms, a Vale water bottle and students from the winning House – Curie with a huge slab of dairy milk each.

Have a great summer everyone and we will see you all in September.

There will be a letter to back this up, but I am taking this opportunity to remind parents that we look forward to welcoming back students:

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at the following times and line up location:

| Year Group | Arrival Location | Arrival Time |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| 7          | STEM Garden      | 8:25         |
| 11         | Peace Garden     | 8:25         |
| 12         | DACA             | 8:25         |

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September we will be looking forward to fully opening to all students and greeting students at their year group line ups:

| Year Group | Arrival Location | Arrival Time |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| 7          | STEM Garden      | 8:25         |
| 8          | Ampitheatre      | 8:25         |
| 9          | Ampitheatre      | 8:25         |
| 10         | STEM Garden      | 8:25         |
| 11         | Peace Garden     | 8:25         |

Matthew Little



# Derian House



Since January, many of our pupils have been participating in the 1000 Hours for Derian Challenge.

They have participated in our annual personal sponsored physical challenges including running, karate, swimming, hill walking, dancing and gym work etc. in order to raise funds for Derian House Children's Hospice.

This culminated in 24 pupils and 4 staff completing a gruelling all-day, non-stop circuit training event this week.

This year's challenge has raised over 10,000 which brings the total over the last decade or more to over 70,000!!





# Royal Navy Visit



We welcomed the Royal Navy into Vale. Their Northwest 'Attract Team' have been in school talking to our Year 9 cohort about potential careers in the Royal Navy along with delivering exciting workshops on team building, communication, and confidence.



# Cross Country Competition



Before Easter the PE department organised and hosted a Primary School cross country competition. We had 76 students in total volunteer to help and me be a Marshall. As a reward we treated them to an Easter egg to say thank you. The pictures attached shows just a few of our young helpers!



# Theater Club



Darwen Vale has launched Theatre club

We are hoping to run a few theatre visits each term to enjoy Shows, Musicals and plays

Giving our students the opportunity to experience a live performance by professionals in a traditional theatre setting.

Today 40 students are off to see The Wizard of Oz at Manchester palace theatre.

Starring Jason Manford, Aston Merry Gold from JLS and The Vivien as The wicked witch.

We know there is no place like Darwen, but we think the students will have a magical time and enjoy this wonderful musical.



# Nutrition Talk



Hayley from our catering company Aspens came into school to talk to the students about nutrient and the importance of a healthy, balanced lifestyle.





# A Luck Penny



Year 11 received a personalised lucky penny and some letters of encouragement from home, in their last assembly this week. We wished them lots of luck not that they need it .

# The first Muslim partner at PWC

We were absolutely thrilled to welcome Mohammad Amin MBE to Darwen Vale on Friday 26th April. Mohammad has had an inspirational career and was the first Muslim partner at PWC. He then went on to chair the Conservative Muslim Forum. Mohammad talked to our KS4 student council, did a tour and spoke to our Year 7 students.





Lego club have been inspired by Ornithology.

We are hoping to create a birdcage brimming with beautiful birds.

Hugo in y9 has got us started.

Keep your eyes out there are more to come.





# Charity Football



Friday the 10th of May, we had a football match and it was a great success, raising money for Derian House Children's Hospice. The game was played in great spirit and we had a great turnout from the school with staff and pupils coming to support. The year 11's came out victorious with an impressive 7-2 win.





# UKMT Maths Challenge



Over 200 students took part in the annual UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This is more students than we have ever had taken part before. Students engaged well in this challenging competition. Olivia Emsley Year 7 from Mrs Little's class got a Bronze in the UKMT Maths challenge.



# A level Maths session with Y10



Both 10c1 and 10r1 maths classes have just had a taster session for why mathematics is such an important subject to follow Post-16 and it proved to be a really successful lesson for them!

The AMSP Advanced Maths Support Programme delivered an interactive 50-minute lesson to show the breadth of careers that are available to students who choose maths at A-Level and the choices of courses available to them with college providers. The lesson included a range of activities covering crowd science, maths modelling and making predictions - all of which showed the vast number of careers which are now available to students who acquire passes in mathematics at A-level and beyond.

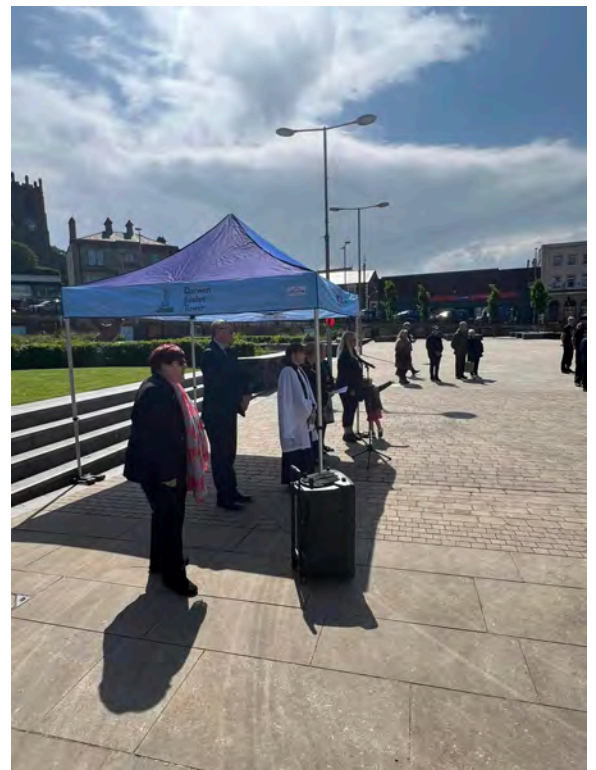
It really was an exciting and stimulating session, giving the students food for thought as they prepare to enter the final year of their GCSE courses. A really worthwhile experience that I am sure the students will have taken much from. Thanks to the AMSP for their time, effort and input with these sessions and really well done to the students who engaged fantastically with the presenter. Let's hope they now feel inspired moving forward!

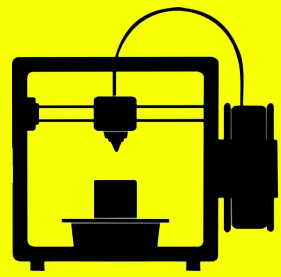


## D-day with Darwen Royal British Legion.

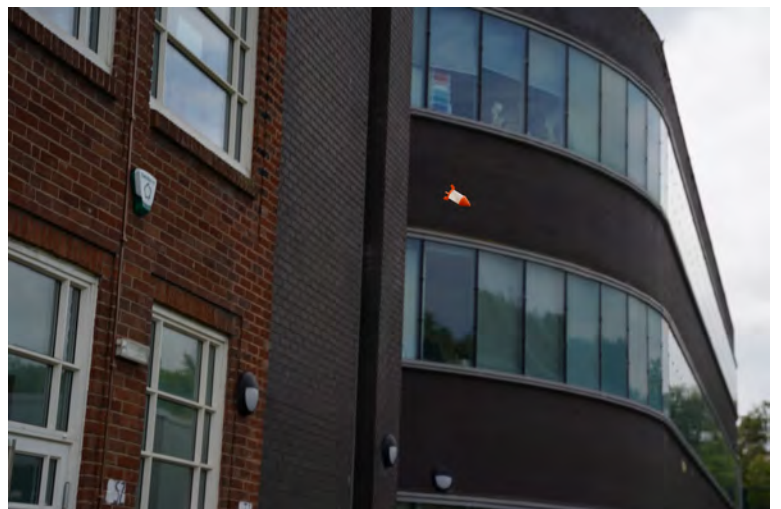


It was so moving to be part of the D-Day memorial ceremony Thursday 6th of June in Darwen town centre, marking 80 years since the events of D-Day. The Mayor also attended.





# 3D Printing Workshop



On Tuesday 4th June, 20 year 8 pupils were invited to take part in a 3D Design and Printing workshop delivered by Chris Huffee from Create Education in partnership with BAE. Pupils learned about 3D design software, 3D printing and how it is used today and may be used in the future. Other activities included a robot design competition and launching 3D printed rockets. The pupils effort and conduct was outstanding all day. A second workshop is due to be held on Tuesday the 18th June, staff are more than welcome to pop in during the day to see what the pupils are up to.

# Modern Language Trip to Manchester University

On Tuesday 12th of June, Miss Jones took a group of 15, Year 10 pupils to the University of Manchester for their UMLAP outreach day. They learned where language could take us in the future, heard from current students about their studies and opportunity to spend a year abroad, sampled Russian and German and did a tour of the campus. Then they had a go at subtitling- yielding some very interesting results.





# London Trip



50 of our Year 8 & 9 students boarded the coach this morning travelling to London. They've got an action-packed couple of days planned which involve, sightseeing, National History Museum, theatre to watch Mrs Doubtfire Harry Potter World! A big thank you to all the staff that are accompanying our students and for making the trip possible!





# Trip to the Palace Theatre



30 students went from Darwen Vale high school and Sudell primary school to see Aladdin at the Palace Theatre in Manchester on Wednesday 19th of June. It was a fantastic afternoon; the students loved the show and was well behaved.



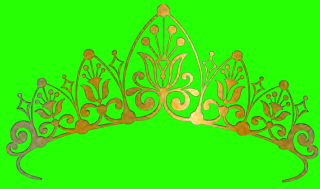


# Alton Towers Trip



On Monday 24th June, as a reward for working extremely hard leading up to and during the exams, 100 year 11 pupils enjoyed a day at Alton Towers. weather wise it was a beautiful day, all students behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school.





# Prom

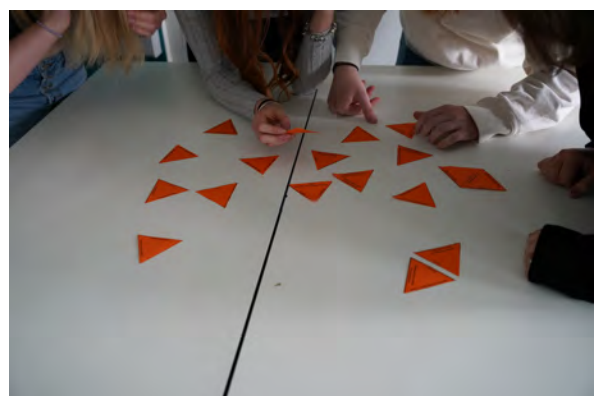
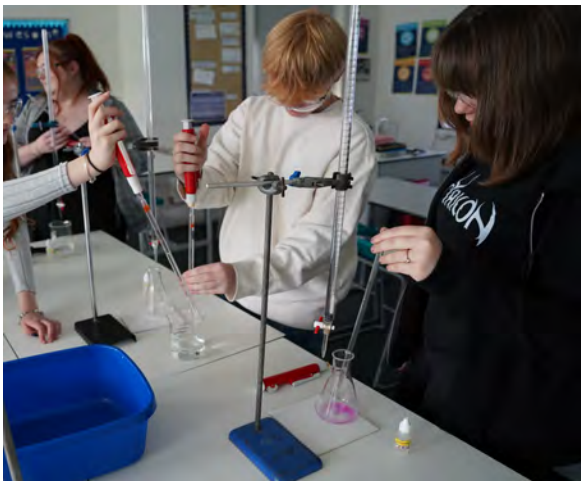
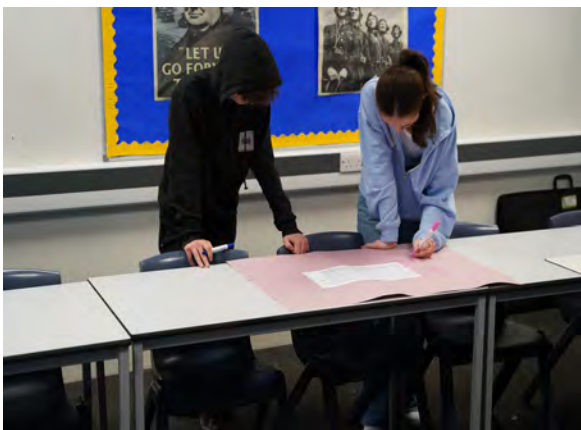


On the 28th June,  
we celebrated our  
wonderful Year 11s  
at their prom at  
Mercure  
Dunkenhalgh Hotel  
Spa! It was lovely  
to see you all!  
TeamVale



# D6 Taster Day

We had the pleasure of hosting Key Stage 5 students for the first time as part of our D6 Taster Day. The students engaged in outstanding, high-quality, and challenging lessons across Science, History, and Maths. The day was a resounding success, with students leaving excited about the prospect of studying at D6 this coming September.



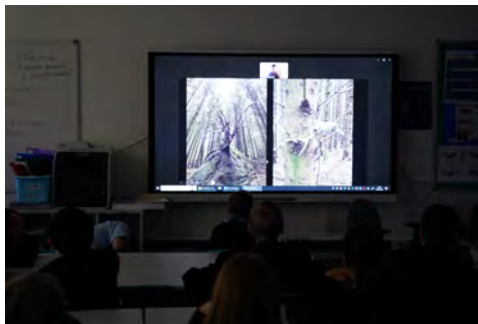


# Virtual book discussion



**On Wednesday 10th July, Miss Raseta arranged for our Year 7 cohort to “meet” author Ross Montgomery through a virtual author visit through Waterstones, the book shop.**

**Montgomery regaled our students with information about his background – even introducing us to his cat, Fun Bobby (who eats hypo-allergenic cat food!) – and what inspired him to write his newest novel: I am Rebel.**



**The novel, written from the perspective of a dog, Rebel, is the first novel that Montgomery has written from the perspective of an animal, and he encouraged our students to think outside the realms of humanity and how animals may feel about everyday scenarios. He also spoke to us about his characters and how he creates and develops each character in his stories which was sure to be inspirational to any of our young, aspiring writers.**



**There was also an interactive Q&A session at the end of the session where Montgomery answered our students’ questions about how to become an author and what subjects he took that helped him to become an author.**



**Overall, we had a wonderful session hearing from an author firsthand and, hopefully, this will be the first of many authors that we will get to “meet”!**

# Year 10 History

**Our Year 10 historians had an excellent time visiting Hardwick Hall last week. The students loved walking around this historic site and staff and members of the public commented on their exemplary behaviour.**





**We had a variety of sporting events this week. Even though we had poor weather conditions for a few of the days, the students gritted it out and they still got stuck in. They played Dodge ball, Volleyball, Kick ball, Football and Netball. We had awards and certificates for the students who did well in classes and out of school sporting activities.**





We have had a great week celebrating students' positive behaviour with our various rewards trips. Students across the school have been to some exciting locations including Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Zoo & the Trafford Centre.

