

14th September 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome the students and staff back to Don Valley Academy for another successful and busy year. The students look fantastic, all very smart in their immaculate uniforms and ready to start learning. I would like to thank all parents as I am very aware of the stress and cost involved in purchasing the uniform for a new school year.

Many of our Year 11 students have returned to join our sixth form after achieving excellent examination results this summer and many others have been successful in securing apprenticeships. The GCSE results have improved since last year with more students achieving 5A*-C grades and also achieving higher grades in the majority of subject areas. The sixth form results day was a very emotional day with outstanding results across the board and every student who applied for University was accepted on their chosen course, so well done all!

We are having a real focus on raising expectations for our students with a drive on punctuality this term. We do have a large site so it is vitally important that students move quickly between lessons. All students should also be receiving homework in all subject areas so please check in the student planners to ensure that the work is completed.

We welcome many new staff to the Academy which will strengthen the teaching and support teams. This will enable us to continue to move Don Valley forward towards being an outstanding school in the community.

We have our first annual prizegiving this year which will be an opportunity to celebrate the success of the young people and also an opportunity for the younger students to see success and raise their aspirations. Further details will follow.

The building work is progressing well and the students are coping incredibly well with the changes in access and free spaces around the Academy. I have been very impressed with the maturity the students are showing towards the site. We are all genuinely very excited about the new build and the opportunities it will provide for the students at Don Valley. Please check the Academy website regularly for updated photos of the new build.

Election of Parent Governor

There is currently a vacancy for a Parent Governor on the school's EAB (Education Advisory Board) at Don Valley Academy. The EAB has a very important role in monitoring and evaluating the work of our academy and in helping to continuously raise standards.

To view further information about the role of being a member of the EAB at Don Valley Academy please contact Bev Edgar via email edgarb@donvalleyacademy.org.uk or alternatively via telephone on the academy telephone number, 01302 781528.

Use of Legal Name & Preferred Name

Please be aware that whilst we have the facility within school system to allow students to be known under a preferred name, it is their legal name which has to be used in all external areas.

VAT Number: 115811243

Don Valley Academy is part of School Partnership Trust Academies / CEO: Sir Paul Edwards
Company Number: 07386086 / Registered Office: Education House / Fusion Court / Aberford Road / Garforth / Leeds / LS25 2GH

Together we are Stronger...

This means that students Personal Learning Record (PLR) and Unique Learner Number (ULN) are linked to their legal name as are exam entries and any exam certificates achieved will have student's legal name on them and not their preferred name. ULN's are issued to all students at 13 years old and will match and work in a similar way to National Insurance Numbers.

Please remember to inform school of any changes to your child's personal details including official changes to the legal name.

Important Dates and Events for your diary

September 24 th	Year 5 and Year 6 Open Evening
October 7 th	Year 11 parents Evening
October 14 th	Parents forum (Raising aspirations) 3.30-4.30pm
October 21 st	Year 7 Support evening 4.30-6pm
November 3 rd	Year 11 Opportunities evening
November 12 th	Academy Prizegiving 7-9pm
November 18 th	Year 10 Parents support evening (Changes to GCSE)
November 25 th	Year 8 Parents evening
December 9 th	Year 12 & 13 Parents evening

Public Examinations Information

Public examination periods and mock exam periods for each year group will be posted on the school's website in the near future.

Midday Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a midday supervisor at the academy. If you are interested in applying for the position, please click the link on our website in the 'About Us', Recruitment section to request a recruitment pack and application.

Pupil Premium – did you adopt a child from care on or after 30 December 2005?

From April 2014, schools in England can receive the Pupil Premium for children adopted from care, or who left care under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005. Schools can also claim the Pupil Premium for children who left care under a Residence Order on or after 14 October 1991.

The Pupil Premium is to help schools raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap with their peers. It is paid to schools in respect of disadvantaged pupils in Reception to Year 11. The Government has extended the coverage of the Pupil Premium in recognition of the traumatic experiences many adopted children have endured in their early lives and a realisation that their needs do not change overnight. To enable your child's school to claim the Pupil Premium, you will need to inform the school about your child and provide supporting evidence of the adoption. We understand that this very sensitive information and that some disclosures will be of a highly confidential nature.

Please contact Mrs J Metcalfe, Data & Curriculum Manager tel: 01302 781528 or email metcalfeJ@donvalleyacademy.org.uk should you wish to inform us that your child is eligible for this funding.

Yours sincerely

K Squire (Mrs)
Principal

