

17 December 2008

Dear Parent / Carer

On behalf of everyone at Darwen Aldridge Community Academy, I would like to wish you a peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The last few months have been a very busy period for all of us with the opening of the Academy, and I would like to commend all of our students for their positive manner and approach in adapting to all of the new Academy arrangements.

As you are aware, the Academy was closed due to the adverse weather conditions on Thursday 4 December. I would like to reassure you that the decision to close the Academy is one that is not taken lightly. On a positive note, it appeared that our communication systems worked well on the day.

With the possibility of further adverse conditions in the New Year, should a closure be necessary in advance of the Academy student day start times, our means of communication will be –

- via local radio stations  
Radio Lancashire, frequency : 104.5 FM, 103.9 FM and 95.5 FM  
Bee Radio, frequency : 107 FM  
(Please note parents are urged **not** to ring the radio stations direct)
- via our Keep Kids Safe text service
- via our website : [www.daca.uk.com](http://www.daca.uk.com)

I would like to thank the many parents who were able to support our Festive Celebration evening and student Christmas Fayre on 11 December. Both events were very enjoyable and showcased the talents of our students.

/2

One member of staff leaves us at the end of the term, Mr Wright is moving to a Technology post in Bolton. Mr Malik has been appointed as Teacher of Technology and will join us on 5 January.

The term for students finishes on Friday 19 December at 12.05pm. For students wishing to take a meal, the canteen facility will be available at this time. A variety of Year Group activities will take place during the morning on this day and you will have been notified of these details by the Year Group Pastoral Managers. Students are not required to wear Academy uniform on this day only, and we ask that they contribute £1.00 towards their Year Group charity for this privilege.

The new term begins for students on Monday 5 January 2009. Can I ask that you ensure your child starts the term punctually on that day and is in full Academy uniform with the correct equipment. May I also remind you that it is our policy to strongly discourage students from bringing into the Academy expensive items, in particular mobile phones or MP3 players. We would welcome your support with this as we start the new term.

I would like to thank you all for your support during 2008, a year which has seen significant change. I look forward to working with you in the New Year and welcome greatly your continued support.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN LOUGHRAN  
Principal