

Darwen Aldridge Community Academy



Darwen Aldridge Community Academy & Sixth Form
Sudell Road, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 3HD
Tel: 01254 819500 **Fax:** 01254 819501
Student Services: 01254 819540
www.daca.uk.com
email: info@daca.uk.com

'Realise your potential'

Dear Parents and Carers

As Chair of Governors I wanted to write to you at the earliest opportunity to let you know that our Principal, Lisa Dolan, has decided to leave the Trust.

Lisa joined DACA in September 2017 and has led the Academy to be a popular choice with local parents, with our sixth form being named in the top 10 per cent of A-level providers in the country.

After considerable thought and with a heavy heart, she has taken the decision to resign from her post as Principal for personal reasons and to move on to pastures new. Lisa wanted me to convey that "It has been a privilege to have served the community for the past almost four years."

Lisa worked tirelessly to adapt to the ever-changing COVID-19 situation while continuing to provide students with the best possible education during lockdown closures. These have made the role of all school leaders an immensely challenging one over the past year, and I am sure we can all understand Lisa's desire for a new challenge. I would like to put on record our thanks to Lisa for all her work on behalf of our young people over the past four years.

The process of seeking our new Principal has started immediately and in the meantime I am delighted that Mrs Helena Lewis, Principal of Sudell Primary School, has agreed to take the role as DACA Executive Principal. Mrs Lewis is a very experienced Headteacher who has worked in a range of settings and who started her career in secondary education. As fellow members of the Aldridge Education Trust Sudell and DACA already work closely together, meaning that Mrs Lewis already knows our Academy and how Aldridge schools operate. As Sudell is right around the corner she can share her duties at both schools.

In this period DACA will also be supported by two additional experienced school senior leaders from the Aldridge Education Trust national team. Mrs Nicki Gregg, who has been seconded to DACA since Christmas, will become interim Head of School. Mrs Gregg has

been teaching since 1994 and been a senior leader in three schools. She has also had wide experience as a Lead for English, Maths, Science, Sixth Form, Literacy and Behaviour and Inclusion.

Mrs Dawn Barlow-Ward will step in as interim Vice-Principal. Mrs Barlow-Ward joined Aldridge Education in January 2018 Trust Lead for English, as well as teacher of English at DACA. She has been in teaching for over 15 years and has been an Assistant Head previously.

Both Mrs Gregg and Mrs Barlow-Ward know DACA and will add greatly to the Academy Leadership Team's capacity and experience during this time.

As there is news of our permanent appointment later in the year I will update you again. In the meantime, I hope that you enjoy your Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. G. Brindle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small circle above the letter 'i' in "Brindle".

Glenda Brindle
Chair of Governors
Darwen Aldridge Community Academy