# DENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARENT BULLETIN

# **10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**



Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter, helping you keep in touch with all the exciting news, clubs and events going on here at Denton Community College. In addition to this newsletter, we have launched our school app aimed at helping you keep in touch with the College on the go. A 'how to...' guide to the app can be found at the end of this bulletin.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **Our Christmas Charity**

In the run up to Christmas, we are organising a number of events in support of Brain Tumour Research. This underfunded charity is very important to us as brain tumours kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other form of cancer. Also:

- every two hours, someone is diagnosed with a brain tumour in England
- 16,000 people each year are diagnosed with a brain tumour
- less than 20% of brain tumour patients survive beyond five years of their diagnosis, whereas 86% of breast cancer and 51% of leukaemia patients survive beyond five years
- in 2015, the number of children dying from cancer was 194, with brain tumours taking 67 young lives and leukaemia 46

Our goal is to raise £2740 which will provide one full day of research. We have currently raised £200 and are hoping your support will help us exceed our target. Part of our fundraising drive will include a Christmas Jumper Day for students and staff on Thursday 20th December 2018 as well as a big Christmas raffle (details below).





#### **PE Kit Fundraising**

Our PE department have been raising money to buy new kits for all our sport teams. The recent 'Cake Sale for Kit' raised £226 and we would like to thank all the students, parents and staff who supported the event.

If any parents are aware of any local businesses, large or small, who would like to sponsor one of our school teams, please contact Miss Redfern for further details on the following email address: a.redfern@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk

#### **Examination News**

Examinations for CIDA (computer based), BTEC Travel and Tourism, Creative i-media and BTEC Music will be taking place on January 9th, 10th and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Selected Year 11 and Year 10 students are involved in these and have received statements of entry informing them of the fact. Please help us to ensure your children have the very best chance of success for these important examinations by making sure they arrive promptly to school, have a black pen and are familiar with the rules and regulations governing exams. These can be accessed from the main school website under the exams tab.

Please note that all the dates for the GCSE examinations in May & June 2019 have now been added to the 'Google Calendar' on the College website.

#### **History Student of the Week**

Congratulations to Owen Barry who has been nominated 'History Student of the Week' by Miss Merritt. Each week the History department nominates one student who has gone above and beyond and rewards them with a certificate and a small prize. Owen's nomination resulted from his positive response to being informed that his GCSE target is a Grade 9.

#### Year 9 Options & Parents' Evening – Thursday 10th January 2018 (4-7pm)

The Year 9 options process is currently underway. If you have a child in Year 9, further details will be heading your way regarding the Year 9 Options & Parents' Evening in January.

#### **End of Term Arrangements**

College will close for the Christmas holidays at 12.30pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and will re-open for students at 8.40am on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Due to the early finish, the usual school buses will not be operating an afternoon service. Please ensure your child is aware of this so alternative homeward journeys can be planned.

#### Parent Governors

We would like to introduce to you Ms M Nickisson and Mrs K Notarpippo as our new parent representatives on the Denton Community College Governing Board. There is still an additional vacancy for a Parent Governor on the board. Further details and a nomination form can be found on the College website.

#### Uniform and Behaviour

We are very proud of the vast majority of our students who demonstrate our school values on a daily basis, dressing smartly and showing respect and courtesy when interacting with others.

Denton Community College is a place of learning and we therefore have high expectations with regards to attitude and behaviour in lessons and during social times. Unfortunately, there are occasions when a student may choose not to behave appropriately and this could results in a 60-minute detention being issued. From Monday 10th December, it will be expected that students complete this sanction the day after it is issued. A text message will be sent home on the day of the detention informing parents/carers of

the sanction. However, if a student is unable to attend they must speak to the relevant member of staff to rearrange the detention. Once again, many thanks for your ongoing support with the promotion of positive behaviour for learning.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform parents and remind students that trainers, hoodies and outdoor coats are not part of our uniform and should not be worn once inside the College building. Please refer to the uniform list on our website if you need any further clarification regarding uniform at Denton Community College.

# The Brilliant Club

The Brilliant Club have started running tutorials with a group of 36 students after a successful launch trip to Sheffield University. Students will learn about PhD level topics in Science, Maths and English and complete a 2000 word assignment in January 2019. The aim of the programme is to show students life at different universities and challenge the way they think about their subjects.

## Be Safe & Be Seen

Now winter is here and the nights are dark (and the weather is definitely worse!), it is important our students stay safe on their journey home. Here are some top tips to help your children to 'Be Safe and Be Seen':

- Walk home in **pairs** and **groups** where possible.
- Make sure you're **visible** to other road users and pedestrians.
- Keep away from the kerb stay safely on the pavement.
- Wear **bright** or **fluorescent** clothing in daylight or poor light.
- Wear **reflective** clothing at night; it shows up in car headlights. Fluorescent clothing is not so visible after dark.
- Always **use your lights** when cycling after dark, in the rain or if the weather is overcast. Make sure your lights are working. It is illegal to ride a bike on the road with no lights after dark. White lights at the front and red at the rear. And, of course, **always** wear a cycling helmet!
- **Concentrate** on your journey please don't text, listen to loud music or play games near roads.
- Try to **use well lit**, busier streets and avoid quiet or badly lit alleys and snickets.
- If you are not going on your usual route, **make sure** someone at home knows where you are going.
- If you are approached by any strangers, do not speak to them and **report it** to your parents immediately.

# Does your child have an answer for everything?

We want them for our debate team! Debate Mate club runs every Wednesday in I5 for students in Years 7 to 10. Here, students can perfect the art of debating and public speaking, preparing them for careers in law, business, education, politics and philanthropy. Last year DCC's team came 4th at the national finals in London and this year we want to do even better.

Learn more on their website: <u>https://debatemate.org/</u>

Watch their promo video: <u>https://vimeo.com/298383601?ref=em-share</u>

## Staying Active!

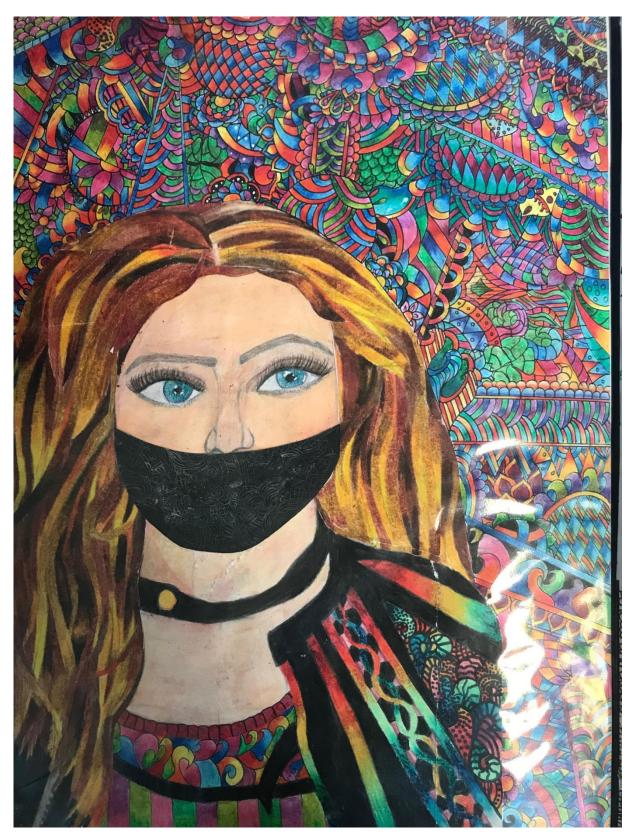
Research by Sport England published this month shows that there is a genuine link between participation in sports activities and emotional well-being. It also builds confidence and resilience. Young people who were active every day reported much higher levels of happiness than those who were not. A similar positive effect was seen in young people who volunteered as well!

As parents and carers, we want to encourage our children to participate in sports more often, but it can be hard to know what clubs and groups are in the local area for them to join. Luckily, Tameside council have a handy website, which lists all local groups and teams. Why not check it out: https://www.tameside.gov.uk/sports/directory/a-z

On behalf of all the staff and governors at Denton Community College, we would like to wish all our students, parents and carers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

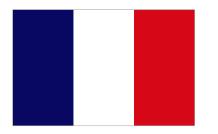
## Artist of the Week

Each bulletin we would like to showcase some of the outstanding work produced by our students. This week we feature a GCSE Mock Examination piece of art created by Year 11 Hannah Tyler.



#### **TRIPS & RESIDENTIALS**

#### Year 7 Boulogne Trip (ALONS-Y!) - 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019



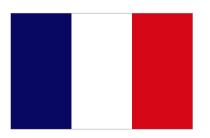
If you have secured a place on the Year 7 trip to Boulogne, France, a follow up letter will be coming out to you shortly. The letter will cover passport requirements, medical and contact information, as well as to give you a more detailed itinerary and dates for the parent/carer meeting.

#### Year 7 Anglesey Residential (AWN NI!) - 29th April to 1st May 2019



Year 7 students taking part in the Conway Centre residential ( $29^{th}$  April –  $1^{st}$  May 2019) will soon receive a letter outlining additional information regarding the trip. The will include details about activities, accommodation information and kit lists. All payments must be made via the Year 7 Homebase team.

#### Years 9 & 10 Normandy Trip (ALONS-Y!) - 9th to 13th June 2019



The French department is offering a 4-night trip to Normandy in June 2019 at a cost of £410. Letters have been given to students and places are going fast. If you are interested, please return the slip and deposit to Ms Power in the Y8 Homebase! The trip is open to students in Year 9 who are considering choosing French at GCSE, as well as existing GCSE students in Year 10.

#### Years 9 & 10 Geography Barcelona Trip (VAMOS!) - 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018



The final deadline for payments towards the Barcelona trip was Friday 7th December. All passports must be presented to the College for copying ASAP. Students will soon receive a letter outlining the itinerary and packing details.

#### Year 10 History - National Justice Museum Trip (Nottingham)

Year 10 History students will have the opportunity to visit the National Justice Museum in Nottingham on Friday 8th November 2019. Students will get to meet individuals from the past who have had a major impact on crime and punishment in Britain today. Students have already received letters outlining the trip (Cost £15) and due to a limited number of places (100 students), the reply slip must be returned to College ASAP.

#### **SPORTING NEWS**

#### **Cross Country**

Well done and thankyou to all the students who represented the College at the recent Tameside Schools Cross Country Tournament. Congratulations to:

- Year 7 students Brooke Doyle, who finished 9<sup>th</sup>, and Ethan Mottershead who finished 10<sup>th.</sup>
- Year 8 student Leah Manser who finished 7<sup>th</sup>.

There were over 120 runners in each age group and these students will now go on to represent Tameside schools at the Greater Manchester Schools Cross Country Championships.

#### Basketball

Congratulations to all members of the Year 7 Basketball Team for their success in the Tameside Schools Basketball Tournament. The team won all 6 of their group games and are now going through to the Tameside Schools Final. Good luck!

#### Netball

Well done to all members of the Year 8 Netball Team who finished runners up in the Tameside Plate. Victories over Great Academy Ashton and Fairfield High School ensured they reached the final where they narrowly lost to Hyde Community College.

#### Football

Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls Football Team who have reached the finals of the Tameside Schools competition.

#### YEAR 11

#### English Revision Resources: App & Website

Mr Watson has produced two resources to help Year 11 prepare for their GCSE English examinations. These resources will be further developed and updated to aid the revision process.

#### 1. Website: <u>www.mrjwatson.com</u>

This website provides:

- Key quotations and character guides for each text studied by DCC students.
- A breakdown of each English exam, the questions and how the marks are awarded.
- Descriptions of approaches and strategies that should be adopted by students (e.g. Reading Ladder, Four-Part Method, TTAPS, etc.)
- Functional skills information (e.g., word types, punctuation, etc.)

#### 2. App: 'QuoteMaster' (available from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for FREE)

The app has been designed with the intention of helping students revise key quotations from English Literature texts.

Each text has its own unique quiz, and each quiz is made up of 15 questions that are based on key quotations. Each quiz randomly chooses 15 questions from a bank of over 25, so a different sequence of questions will be presented with each play through, giving students a wider range of content to revise.

Repetition is essential for effective revision, so the more students play and the more they see the quotations, this will help them become more familiar with these quotations ready for the exams.

To download the app, just go to the relevant app store on your mobile device and search 'QuoteMaster'.

#### Year 11 Parents Evening - Thursday 13th December (4-7pm)

Don't forget Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 4-7pm. This will be the last Parents' Evening for Year 11 students and there are still lots of available slots to meet their subject teachers. If you have not already booked your appointments, please do so using the PTO online system.

#### Extra revision and support for Year 11

Masterclasses are now running during pastoral time from 8.40am until 9.00am. Please ensure your child is punctual to school. The Class of 2018 found this to be one of the most beneficial strategies made available to students in the run up to their GCSEs in May & June.

Both masterclasses and Period 6 sessions are proven strategies in raising the achievement of students. Analysis of our results and student participation in these strategies demonstrates an average increase in attainment of over a grade compared to non-attenders.

A timetable of these sessions can be found below.

#### After School - Period 6

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	Option B	Option A	Band A English	Band A RE Travel & Tourism
			Band B Maths	Band B Science
Week 2	Option C	No Period 6	Band A Maths	Band A Science
			Band B English	Band B RE Travel & Tourism

# Pastoral Time – Masterclass (3/12/18 to 14/12/18)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Assembly	Maths (Higher)	English (Band A)	Science (Higher)	RE (All RE Students)
Week 2	Assembly	Maths (Foundation)	English (Band B)	Science (Foundation)	French (All MFL Students)

# Please support us to support your child by encouraging them to attend the extra sessions.

# It will help and they <u>will</u> achieve!



#### The 'MyEd' app shows you up to date information about all aspects of your child's school life.

Simply download the 'My Ed' app and create yourself an account using your current mobile number and email address (please make sure we have your up to date contact details).

A sync will then take place overnight to authenticate your account and providing the details you provide match our school records your children will appear the next day under the 'My Students' section.





