



DENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARENT BULLETIN

AUTUMN 2019



Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2019/20 academic year, 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 for the app can be found at the end of this bulletin.

Social Media

Don't forget the College are now operating three official twitter feeds to help keep students, parents and carers up to date with the latest news at DCC. In many cases these, along with the College website, are the most effective way of keeping up with what is going on. These can be found at:

- CollegeNews @ DCC_News
- Headteacher @ DCC
- PE News @ DCC_PE

The school website: key information

For parents new to the College, you are able to view information regarding student reports, grading schemes & Parents' Evenings on the College website. A copy of the Denton Community College Privacy Notice is also available to view on our website.

To access this information visit the College homepage at <http://www.dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk/> and click on the sections shown below:

NEWS/LETTERS – Click on 'Letters 2019-20' where you will find timescales for student reports and Parents' Evenings. You will also find details of the new grading schemes we will use to report the progress of students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

PARENTS/CARERS – GO4Schools is the system used by the College to record student attainment and behaviour and for Student Reports. To access the site, click on 'GO4Schools' to view guidance notes and a login screen. Please note that the college do not currently use the GO4Schools app.

PARENTS/CARERS – The booking system used by the College for Parents' Evenings is Parent Teacher Online or PTO. Click on the 'PTO' link to access guidance and the log in screen. The first Parents' Evening of the academic year will be for Year 11 on Thursday 5th December.

INFORMATION – For details on how the College manages student data, view our Privacy Notice, click on 'Data Protection' and 'Privacy Notice'.

The college also use the 'My Ed' app to communicate with parents. 'My Ed' is a free App, available from the 'App Store' or 'Play Store'. When using 'My Ed', enter 'Denton Community College' and providing you are the main parent/carer for your child, you will be able to access relevant student and parent information. The login screens for the sites mentioned above are available within the app – 'Student Reports' and 'Parents' Evenings'.

Data Collection Forms

Parents of students in Years 8 and 10 should have received a Data Collection Form during the first half of the Autumn Term. Forms for Years 9 and 11 will be posted out during the second half of the Autumn Term. Upon receipt of the form, please check the details we hold for your son/daughter and update any incorrect or missing information. Sign and return the form to your child's year group Homebase as soon as possible.



As you will be aware, Denton Community College has introduced ParentPay to provide a more convenient way to pay for school trips, equipment, meals and other items online. Activation letters have already been sent out and we have seen a large number of accounts being created.

The switchover from the current payment method of school meals to the ParentPay system will take place from Tuesday 5th November. It is imperative that ParentPay accounts are activated before this time to ensure lunch accounts can be credited when needed. Please note that we will no longer be accepting cash payments and all current funds will be transferred to the new system.

If you have any concerns, or have not received your activation letter, please contact the school finance office as soon as possible.

Attendance is key to success!

Congratulations to Year 11 for their excellent attendance and punctuality during their mock exams this week. Their attitude and behaviour has been exemplary and we are very proud of the progress they are making. Our school motto is INSPIRE, ASPIRE, PERFORM and Year 11 are certainly demonstrating these qualities at this time.

Research shows that nationally students with over 95% attendance achieve on average more than half a grade higher than expected. Here at Denton Community College we know that this is the case: when students attend their lessons, they succeed. We would like families to use the table below and talk with each other about the impact good attendance will have on outcomes.

Attendance	Grade per subject achieved against expected result nationally	
95%+	0.5 of a grade above	↑
95%	Expected progress	
90%	0.5 of a grade below	↓
85%	1.3 of a grade below	↓
80%	2.2 of a grade below	↓

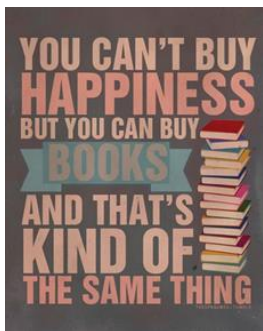
Please remember to log into your Go4Schools account and look at the attendance information for your child and, if necessary, set them a target to improve next half term.

PC Broadbent

We are very pleased to welcome PC Lee Broadbent to the team at Denton Community College. PC Broadbent is working with us and several other Tameside schools as part of a Greater Manchester Police project aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in the community and to support the work of schools in addressing this issue. He will be based on site for up to three days a week, and is already getting to know our students. PC Broadbent has even stayed behind to watch our Year 10 football team and there are plans for him to be in attendance at future parents' evenings to meet parents and answer any questions.

Library rewards

We now have a fantastic library in school and we want students to be making the most of it. Every time students read a book, they will get a stamp on their reading tracker. Once a student achieves 5 stamps they will receive a book of their choice to keep.



The library is open every break time and every lunch time. Please encourage students to pop down and ask a librarian for a tracker card.

We also want to make sure families are aware of the brilliant libraries in our community that are run by Tameside. As well as traditional books, you can withdraw audiobooks electronically for free. Further details are on their website:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Libraries/eBooks-and-Audiobooks-service-for-Tameside-Library>

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs every morning from 7.30 to 8.15am each day and is located in the food technology room. Breakfast Club is run by Miss Donbavand and Mrs Jenks, providing a free breakfast to any student who wishes to attend. The food is fresh, healthy and includes cereals, bagels and fresh fruit. Our Breakfast Club means every young person has the chance to start the day in a safe, warm environment to ensure they are fully prepared for learning at the start of each day.

Online Safety



Our website has some useful links to help you keep up to date with the ever changing world of online safety. With modern smart-phones, young people always seem to be online and ensuring their safe behaviour is not always easy for parents. The school rules on mobile phones are very straight-forward. If students have phones, they must not be visible in lessons or on the corridors between lessons unless instructed by a member of

staff. Students are then allowed to use their phones at break and lunchtime. Anyone misusing their phone will have them confiscated and may be banned from having them in school at all.

CEOP (the online safety people behind the amazing www.thinkuknow.co.uk/ website) have been running a campaign to raise awareness to the dangers of live streaming.

Popular apps such as 'TikTok' and 'Periscope' definitely have their own online safety issues for young people. As a consequence, 'ThinkUKnow' have produced a [short guide to live streaming](#) to help parents keep their child safe. It explains:

- What live streaming is and why it's so popular
- What makes it risky for young people
- How they can help their child stay safe while live streaming

DCC staff news

We have made several staffing changes to our SEND team over the past few weeks and wanted you all to be kept up to date. New faces into roles include:

- Interim Special Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator: Jaqueline Gristwood
- EAL specialist Teaching Assistant: Anita Mistry
- Teaching Assistant: Emma Dunne

Further information about the excellent work of our SEND team can be found on the school website, including our SEND information report and key policies.

Mrs Lumb left us at the end of the Summer Term to pursue other opportunities and we wish her well.

RADIO 4

One really easy way to extend your child's knowledge and understanding is to listen to some of the programmes produced by Radio 4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4>



- For business studies students there is a the business news at 20 past the hour in the morning.
- For history students 'Our Time' is great for really in depth history information.
- For mathematics students and fact-checking there is 'More or Less'.

All of these programmes and many more are also available via the free BBC Sounds app.

Christmas Extravaganza

Our Christmas Extravaganza (Christmas Fair) is always a sure sign that the festive season is fast approaching. This year it will be held on Saturday 30th November from 11.00am-3.00pm. As well as the seasonal stalls, there will be delicious refreshments, exciting entertainment and even a Santa's Grotto. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Careers Information

We know how important strong careers advice and guidance is to our young people; it helps them make the right decision about their futures, gives ambition, raises aspirations and can open their eyes up to jobs and opportunities they've never considered before. At Denton Community College this is coordinated by Mr Knott, who works with local, regional and national organisations to put together a year-round series of events. Some of you may remember the DCC Careers Fair earlier in the year that had over 40 Post-16 providers as well as national and local employers. Every student, across all year groups, participated in the event.

1	2	3	4
A STABLE CAREERS PROGRAMME	LEARNING FROM CAREER AND LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION	ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF EACH PUPIL	LINKING CURRICULUM LEARNING TO CAREERS
5	6	7	8
ENCOUNTERS WITH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES	EXPERIENCES OF WORKPLACES	ENCOUNTERS WITH FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION	PERSONAL GUIDANCE

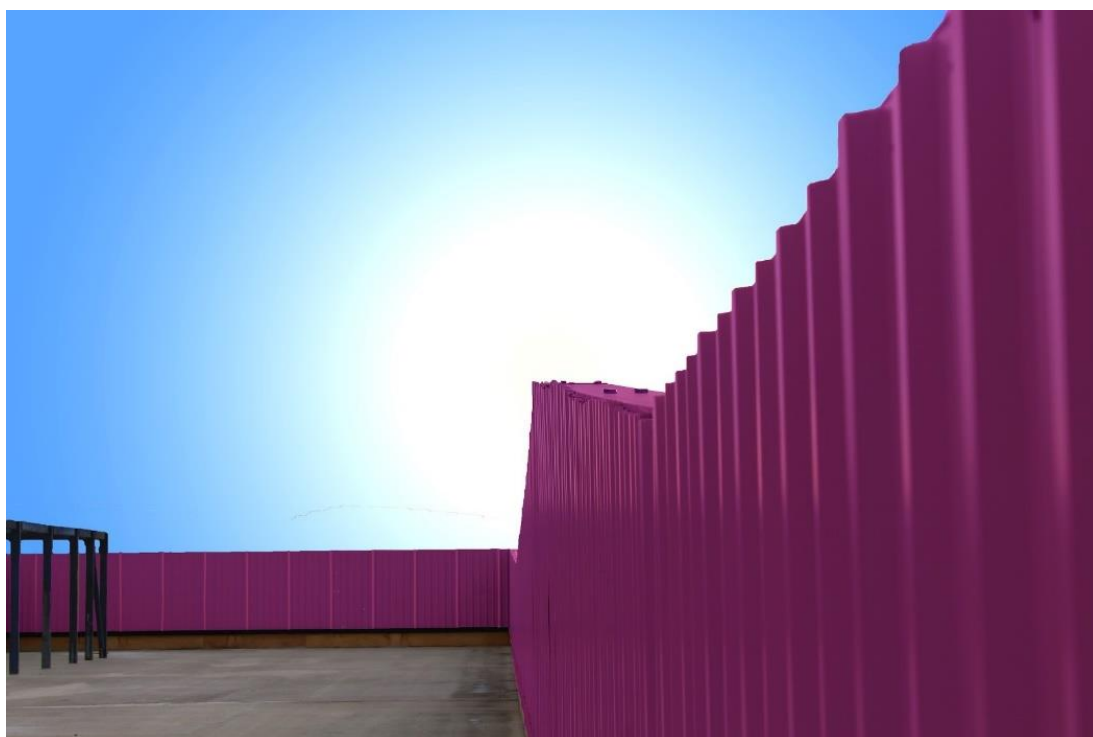


We've already run a number of careers trips this school year, but one we thought you'd like to know about is a trip to Apple that Year 9 students have gone on to learn about digital careers. These kind of real-world experiences are invaluable and we welcome the opportunities that international companies like Apple provide.

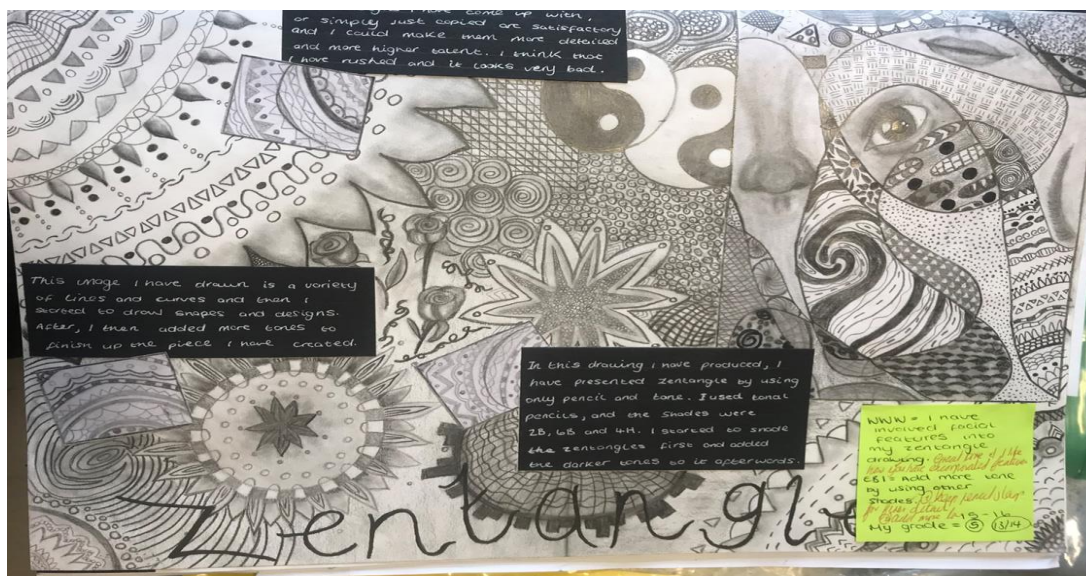


Artists of the Week

We think the photography taken by our students is exceptional, and we really wanted to share some of their work with you. The two wonderful images below are by Year 11 students Megan Saxon & Daniel Bradwell. These were taken on location in Manchester City Centre and the new Denton Wellness Centre as part of their GCSE Photography course. This course has grown in popularity and success in recent years and covers a range of skills including aperture, shutter speed and exposure. Current project themes include The Formal Elements, architecture, landscapes and light painting. We're sure you'll agree that we have some very talented students behind the lens!



We would also like to say a big Denton 'well done' to Lavinia Mulholland for the fabulous work she has been producing in her Art lessons, particularly her use of the zentangle technique for portraits.



PSHE

The Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum is covered at Denton Community College in a number of ways. Students experience weekly sessions with their form tutor that are linked to the theme of the fortnight and connect with their weekly assembly. Over the course of the year, we aim to tackle some big issues that are present in the world as well as tackle misconceptions around world events. Some of the topics include: Black History Month, The Role of the Government, Fake News, being an LGBTQ+ ally, Knife Crime, The Environment and The contribution of International Women.

Drop Down Day


To support the PSHE curriculum, we also have a planned Drop Down Day. This is where students are off timetable for the full day and a range of external providers come into school to educate students. This covers the following themes: careers, health education, relationships education, mental health and resilience as well as improving financial security. The first PSHE day will be on the 17th January 2019.

External speakers

To extend the work from our Drop Down Day, we have introduced a programme of external speakers this year. Each year group will have at least 2 external speakers that will cover a range of world issues. We currently have planned Figen Murray talking about Hate Crime and extremism, a play about the experiences and impact of LGBTQ+ bullying, a Holocaust survivor talking about genocide, and a Lord from the House of Lords talking about their role.

Proud Trust



 As part of our PSHE policy and the school equality objectives, Denton Community College is working to improve the experiences of LGBTQ+ students and raise the profile of discrimination experienced by the community. This three year project will see us begin work with the Proud Trust, a Manchester based LGBTQ+ charity, to obtain their Rainbow Flag award. This identifies us as a beacon of support for the LGBTQ+ community and ensures we are meeting the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum, the Equality Act and the new Relationships and Sex Education policy published by the government.

The work of PSHE is under constant review and if you would like to part in shaping this or have any suggestions, please contact Mr Spencer. Additionally, it would be of great help to us if you could complete this short questionnaire. We'd love to hear what you think about our curriculum.

<https://forms.gle/ZosUD8LBqHNsctn77>

Computing news...a fantastic new iDEA!



The Computer Science department here at DCC uses the fantastic new iDEA award as an ongoing homework for Years 7 and 8 - please ask to have a look at this at home. It has been set up as a digital version of the well-known Duke of Edinburgh's award and students obtain knowledge, skills and understanding of key topics such as online safety, digital design, social media usage and careers. Students can work at their own pace, become more independent and learn to manage their time more effectively - collecting digital 'badges' as they go. Those students who achieve the award get a certificate signed by the Duke of York, sent from Buckingham Palace.

The Computing department have two expectations. These are:

- all students will achieve a bronze award by the end of Y8. This means that students have Y7 and Y8 to achieve this and are expected to work on the award at home throughout the year. We will be celebrating successes as we go, but also following up if students fall behind.
- some students will attempt and work towards a silver award in Y9. This means that students who opt for Computer Science will have all Y9 to complete badges on a weekly basis.

We ran iDEA as a pilot last year and students responded brilliantly. They were engaged and made great progress towards their targets. In fact, students obtained:

- 2 silver awards
- 44 bronze awards
- 6,086 individual badges achieved



Computer science teacher Mr Wild will be leaving us this half term to take up a new post in Blackburn. We would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work and efforts in educating the young people at Denton Community College.

GCSEpod

All Year 10 and Year 11 students should be using GCSEpod to help with their revision. It is a free online resource and covers all subjects in short three minute podcasts. We've had over 3,000 downloads already since the start of September! It really is an excellent resource and one well worth looking at together. Access is either online at GCSEpod.com or via the GCSEpod app.

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Practise bringing information from memory for better results.

gcsepod
Education on Demand

Retrieval practice is the act of recalling information without having it in front of you. Research shows this is far more effective than reading and re-reading.

HOW IT WORKS

In recent years, cognitive psychologists have been comparing retrieval practice with other methods of studying. What they have found is that nothing cements long-term learning as powerfully as retrieval practice.

Write it down
Try writing down everything you know about a topic. Then go back and check to see what you have missed.

Partner Up
Get together with a friend and write down everything you can remember about a topic. Compare notes and see what's missing.

Flash Cards
Make some flash cards and then try recalling the information on them.

TIPS & ADVICE TO GET IT RIGHT

'Space out' your practice
Retrieval practice is even more effective if it's done in short bursts over time, rather than in a single long session. The struggle involved in trying to recall information strengthens your long-term learning.

Don't give up
It may feel hard at first but the more times you practise recalling, the more information you will be able to bring to mind. It will get easier each time!

Flash Cards
Create flash cards to help fill the gaps in your knowledge to help you remember more next time. Our Pods are a fantastic way to use flash cards, simply pick a topic, make a flashcard with everything you know, then watch the pod to fill in any knowledge gaps.

HOW USING GCSEPOD CAN HELP

Our assignments are a fantastic way to test your knowledge. Just like past papers, they are relevant to the exams you will be taking. They also auto-mark and show you what areas you need to improve by providing a boost playlist with the exact Pods you need to watch to fill those knowledge gaps. For more information visit www.gcsepod.com.



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.



GET THE APP

Step 1:

Go to your app store

Step 2:

Search for 'My Ed'

Step 3:

Download the app

MY ED IS AVAILABLE ON..

