



6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well, safe and at home. As we move into the Easter break I just wanted to write to you all to say thank you for your continued support over the recent weeks and to update you on a few aspects of College life. I hope you find this useful and continue to visit the College website (<http://www.dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk/>) as well as our twitter feeds (@HeadteacherDcc & @DCC\_News) to keep up to date.

Over the last two weeks we have supported the national effort to fight this virus by opening our doors to support the families of critical workers with no other child care options and also supporting some of our most vulnerable learners. This would not have been possible without our dedicated staff, including our colleagues from Robertson's, who have continued to open the school and deliver this programme of learning. Thank you also to all of our families who have heeded the national government instruction over keeping your children at home if at all possible. In addition to this, we have also been able to support the NHS and local medical practices by providing them with our stocks of protective eye equipment and gloves to help them in their efforts very much 'on the front line'.

There has been a great deal of discussion regarding the grading of the GCSE & BTEC qualifications for our current Year 11 students. The government has now released the guidance and this can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

Whilst this information may not provide you with the answers to all your questions it does outline the key principles that will be adopted. As additional information becomes available from the individual exam boards we will share this with you. Please be aware, I have instructed staff not to answer directly any questions regarding the grading of qualifications and I ask that students and parents do not direct questions to individual teachers. This will ensure that the most accurate, fair and consistent message will be given as directed by Ofqual.

As the Easter holiday approached we received a number of requests from parents / carers asking if they could come to College to pick up their child's exercise books, portfolios, equipment and items of clothing. Unfortunately this is strictly against the government guidelines and we are therefore refusing such requests. We understand that this is a challenging situation but I must ensure that I protect my staff and our community by strictly adhering to the guidelines. If and when the restrictions are lifted we will of course revisit this situation. Thank you in advance for your understanding on this.

If you or your family are in need of additional support during this period then a list of useful contacts can be found on the College website via the link below:

<http://www.dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk/additional-help-during-school-closure/>

The College website also provides useful tips and links with regards to mental health and wellbeing. These can be accessed directly via the link below:

<http://www.dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk/category/community/health-and-wellbeing/>

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr G Rule

This will be a very difficult time financially for a number of our families and we were pleased to be able to help the families of our students who receive free school meals with our own voucher scheme in advance of the rolling out of the national scheme. Further information regarding financial support can be found via the Tameside Council link below:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus>

If you are self-isolating and have nobody to support you  
**We are here to help**

food medicines company

Call 0161 342 8355

[www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.tameside.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Tameside Metropolitan Borough  
action together  
NHS Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group  
NHS Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

Finally I would like to thank all my staff who have very quickly responded to the challenges we face and the changes that have had to be made in how we educate our young people. I am sure you are all now familiar with 'Google Classroom' and have seen the fantastic curriculum being produced by our teachers and the high expectations they hold with regards to our students. If you are having any trouble in using Google Classroom please follow the link below for hints and advice:

<http://www.dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk/i-have-an-issue-with-google-classroom/>

All it leaves me to say is thank you for all your support and understanding at this time. I intended to share the 'Easter Parent Bulletin' with you at this time but I am aware you have been bombarded with information over the last two weeks. This will now be emailed out to you at the start of the new term on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

As we move into the Easter break, please remember this is a holiday period. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay home.

Kind regards

Greg Rule

(Headteacher)