

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule



22nd May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well at this time.

I am writing to you directly to keep you informed of our current position with regards to providing our Year 10 students with some face to face provision prior to the summer holidays. The information in the local and national media regarding what will take place has been rather confusing and in some cases conflicting. At the time of writing this letter, I am still awaiting the final guidance for secondary schools from the government.

Our Local Authority has been working with its various departments, including Public Health, to consider the best way forward. Whilst the government has announced that it was keen for schools to welcome back Year 10 (as well as Year 12, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6) from the 1st June, clear guidance has been given by Tameside Council that these students will not return until 8th June at the earliest. Unfortunately no statement of intent has been forthcoming from the government with regards to the return to school of students in Years 7 to 9.

The staff and governors at Denton Community College are aiming to begin the phased return of Year 10 students from 8th June at the earliest. At this time, we are uncertain of how this provision will look or the timescale for the full return of students. What we do know is that the provision offered will not be education as we know it. Students may be asked to attend in small groups, with staggered days or weeks, as well as different start and finish times, especially at first.

We are currently aiming to provide every Year 10 student an opportunity for a socially distanced face-to-face meeting of up to 45 minutes with a teacher or a member of the pastoral team between the 8th and 26th June. We will email each student during the first week in June with their date and time slot. If a student is unable to attend in person, we will make arrangements for a telephone consultation during the allotted time slot. Further details regarding the meeting will be shared in the email, but we feel the meeting will focus mainly on the student's well-being, progress and identifying any additional support we can provide.

As a school, our purpose is the education and care of our young people. As a parent of a child in Year 10, I am desperate for them to return to school as soon as possible so that they can return to some kind of normality with regards to their education in advance of their GCSEs 12 months away. As a Headteacher I want this for all our students not just Year 10, however their health and that of my staff must guide my actions.

Whilst this letter may not have provided all the answers we all want at this time with regards to a return to education for the long term, I do hope it demonstrates the path we are likely to take if we are allowed to begin face-to-face provision from 8th June. As I am sure you are aware, this could change in the coming days and weeks in response to the latest government announcements and advice. I will, of course, be keeping you updated as and when the situation changes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support and understanding at this time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Rule", is positioned above the printed name of the headteacher.

Mr G Rule
Headteacher