



RE: Arrangements at Denton Community College from **Monday 7th September 2020**.

Dear Parent / Carer

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

On **Friday 21st August 2020** I wrote to all parents / carers outlining our arrangements for welcoming our students back to school during the week beginning **Wednesday 2nd September 2020**. Please click [here](#) for a copy of this letter.

Following the most recent government guidance, the governing board of Denton Community College have now ratified our proposal for the curriculum that will run from **Monday 7th September** until **Friday 23rd October 2020**. This timetable will be monitored and reviewed in light of changes to government guidance and if required a new version will be implemented from **Monday 2nd November 2020**.

In developing this new curriculum, we have endeavoured to ensure that:

- It remains broad and balanced.
- It remains engaging and stimulating for students.
- All students have the opportunity to follow all the subjects that we offered before lockdown.
- Wherever possible all subjects are taught by subject specialist teachers.
- All practical subjects are taught in subject specific areas.
- The need to split classes between teachers is minimised.

In addition to delivering a curriculum that maximises the potential of individuals and does not disadvantage any student, we are implementing a series of measures to ensure the health and safety of students and staff is maintained at all times. Whilst the risk of contracting Covid-19 cannot be eliminated completely, we are following the latest government guidance and implementing the following measures to reduce it:

- All students will enter the building via their external homebase entrance.
- All students will remain within the social bubble of their year group at all times.
- The College building has been zoned to ensure only one year group occupies a zone on any particular day.
- Seating plans within classrooms will be implemented at all times.
- All tables in classrooms will face the teacher at the front of the class.
- Students must be fully equipped for learning in each lesson, as the sharing of equipment between students will not be permitted.
- The movement of students around the building has been minimised.
- Designated walk/pathways have been identified for students to move across the building.
- Students from different bubbles will not cross paths whilst moving around the building.
- Social bubbles will remain in pre-identified zones (inside and outside the building) during break and lunch.
- Each year group will have their own identified servery at lunch times.
- Additional time has been built into the timetable for the washing and sanitising of hands.
- Sanitiser stations have been installed inside each classroom and at key points around the building.
- On days where students have PE or dance we ask they wear their kit all day to eliminate the need to use the changing rooms.
- All door handles and railings in the building will be cleaned between lessons.
- All areas of the school will receive a deep clean once a week in addition to the regular daily cleaning pattern.

With regards to facemasks in school we recognise that some students and staff will always feel reassured by wearing one and in normal circumstances we would leave this to the personal choice of the individual. However current government guidance states that in schools in areas that are under local restrictions, students must wear facemasks in all areas of the school apart from classrooms (e.g. dining areas and corridors). Currently our understanding is that Tameside is such an area, so please ensure your child has an appropriate face mask and a plastic bag to store it in during lessons. If government guidance changes we will update you via email and the website.

To support our families and to reduce the risk to students on their journey to and from school we will not be changing the start and finish times of our school day. From Monday 7th September we will be making a number of changes within the school day to allow us to deliver our curriculum. Alongside our new health and safety measures the following changes to the school day, shown in brief in the table below, will be implemented:

Start of the School Day		
8.40am	Lesson 1	
9.50am		
Movement & Sanitising Break		
10.05am	Lesson 2	
11.15am		
11.15 to 11.45	Lunch Y7 & Y10	Tutorial Y8, Y9 & Y11
11.45 to 12.15	Tutorial Y7 & Y10	Lunch Y8, Y9 & Y11
12.15pm	Lesson 3	
1.25pm		
Movement & Sanitising Break		
1.40pm	Lesson 4	
2.50pm		
End of the School Day		

To make these changes the following principles have been applied:

- We will be moving from five lessons to four lessons each day.
- Each lesson will be extended from one hour to seventy minutes in length.
- Each day will begin with lesson one rather than the traditional registration period.
- Two movement / sanitising breaks will be implemented between lessons 1 & 2 and then between lessons 3 & 4.
- Students will only make one movement between learning zones each day depending upon their timetable.
- Lunch time will be split depending on the year group.
- Lunch time will be brought forward from 1.20pm to either 11.15am or 11.45am depending on the year group.
- Lunch time will be the only opportunity for students to purchase food and drink during the school day.
- A new thirty minute curriculum based PHSE / Tutorial will be implemented each day to enable the split lunch to take place.

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

The main change will be the implementation of 'Home Learning' within the timetable. Each year group will be required to work from home one afternoon each week. This will be a structured period of learning that will be supported by online and paper resources. 'Home Learning' will be a formal part of the curriculum and the work set will be monitored by classroom teachers and quality assured by the senior leadership team. Each year group will be allocated a different afternoon, the details of which will be communicated via email on **Tuesday 1st September** and will begin on **Tuesday 8th September**. Whilst we all want our young people to be in school all of the time, 'Home Learning' has been implemented to isolate individual areas of our building so that the necessary deep cleaning and sanitisation of our learning zones can take place each week. To support families in making the necessary arrangements for 'Home Learning' the allocated day for each year will remain the same and lunch arrangements will remain in place for students who receive Free School Meals.

Whilst these arrangements are not ideal, they do provide us with a platform on which we can build. Getting our students back into full time education is our priority, yet this must be done in a way that is safe for both students and staff. These arrangements are aimed not only at minimising the risk to individuals but also against the need to close the whole school in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak amongst our population. Further details regarding these changes and our expectations of students upon their return will be emailed home on **Tuesday 1st September 2020**.

I do appreciate that I am sharing an awful lot of information with you and this can be quite difficult to digest. Please be reassured we will be explaining everything carefully and thoroughly to all students the first time we meet with them and will provide them with plenty of support to help them adopt these changes. To ensure this works we are anticipating full cooperation from all students and are counting on your support with this.

I hope you all have a very restful Bank Holiday weekend and we look forward welcoming back all our students next week. Many thanks for your continued support in the education of our young people.



Greg Rule
Headteacher