

FAO: Parents & Carers

RE: Arrangements for the start of the new academic year (2021/22)

Dear Parents & Carers

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

As you will be aware, the Government recently announced a delay to the final easing of lockdown restrictions in England by four weeks, until **Monday 19th July 2021**. As a result many of the activities planned at home and at school for the next few weeks are no longer permissible under the current Government guidelines.

In recent weeks there has been a rapid increase in new Covid-19 cases across Greater Manchester, as well as nationally. We also know that most of these new cases are in younger age groups, in particularly teenagers and young adults. These increases are due to the spread of the new Delta variant of the virus which is more transmissible, as well as increased mixing due to lockdown easing in recent weeks. The control measures adopted by schools such as social distancing wherever possible, the use of bubbles and lateral flow testing are still proving effective at reducing the risk of spreading the virus. The recent increase however, has seen the raising of expectations regarding the wearing of face coverings in schools across the secondary education sector in Tameside.

Due to the Government's recent decision to extend restrictions, a meeting was held on **Friday 19th June 2021** with representatives from Public Health Tameside, the local authority and the Headteachers from the secondary schools across Tameside. In light of the current circumstances it was felt that the traditional transition events for Year 6 students (**Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd July**) and the taster days at the local post-16 providers for Year 10 students (**Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th July**) could not take place as planned.

Here at Denton Community College we value and really see the benefit of the transition experience for Year 6 students. When faced with a similar situation during the first lockdown, it was decided to phase the return of students in September to allow for the transition of our new Year 7 at the beginning of the academic Year. On **Monday 21st June 2021**, the Governing Board of Denton Community College ratified the following plans for the return of students in **September 2021**.

Wednesday 1st September 2021:

- Staff INSET Day (No Students)

Thursday 2nd September 2021:

- Year 7 - Induction Day (8.40am to 2.50pm)
- Years 8, 9, 10 & 11 Remote Home Learning Tasks

Friday 3rd September 2021:

- Year 7 Induction Day (8.40am to 2.50pm)
- Years 8, 9 10 & 11 (See the table below for details)

Arrangements for Friday 3 rd September 2021		
AM (8.40am to 11.20am)	Year 9	Year 10
PM (12.10pm to 2.50pm)	Year 8	Year 11

Monday 6th September 2021:

- All year groups return to learning as normal from 8.40 am

I am sure you will agree, the induction process into secondary school was very important to your child. However, with regards to the education of our young people these have been very disruptive times. This response will not only support our new Year 7 students, but also ensure the rest of our student body can return to their normal full time education as soon as possible after the summer break.

Many thanks for your continued support in the education of the young people of Denton Community College.

Yours sincerely



Greg Rule
Headteacher