



July 2021

RE: Uniform & Expectations

To: All Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers

As the end of the academic year approaches, I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

The vast majority of students at Denton Community College wear their uniform with pride and, as always, you have been very supportive of our high expectations regarding their appearance and behaviour this academic year.

Our students are our ambassadors, our uniform is therefore very important as it:

- identifies our students with our school
- is fair and makes students feel equal in appearance to their peers
- promotes a sense of pride in our school
- engenders a sense of community and belonging towards our school
- is practical and smart

#### PRACTICAL PARITY IDENTITY COMMUNITY PRIDE

Our uniform has remained unchanged for a number of years, with the exception of the introduction of the new skirt in September 2020. I would just like to remind everyone that the expectation has always been that the skirt is to be worn to the knee. This was in recognition to that fact that students grow during the academic year and that what may start out as a skirt of respectable length may not end up being so after a few months. We therefore ask that when buying the skirt, it is of sufficient length so that it does not go above mid-thigh as the student grows.

Unfortunately this year our suppliers have struggled to source the school jumper. This is not a compulsory item and the decision has been reached to replace the current jumper with the green trim, with a charcoal grey jumper with the school logo. To support parents we will not be setting a deadline for replacing the current jumper and both will be accepted items of uniform.

A full breakdown of our uniform expectations can be found in the Parents & Carers section of our website, which can be accessed via this [link](#). These expectations also include guidance on the footwear we deem acceptable. Please note that trainers of any sort are not accepted as part of our main uniform, as well as shoes that have visible sports branding (even embossed).

The current approved suppliers of our uniform remain TopForm by Monkhouse, 217 Chestergate, Stockport SK3 OAN. Their online parent guide can be accessed via this [link](#). Whilst there are other stockists of our uniform the quality, colour and designs may vary.

In recent months we have seen a number of students trying to stretch what they feel are acceptable hair styles. As a school we currently consider the following to be extreme haircuts / styles:

- Hair that is not of a natural colour (e.g. red, purple etc.)
- Two tone dyed hair that is not a high light of low light (e.g. dyed tips etc.)
- Shaved heads up to a number 2.

- Shaved heads incorporated into undercuts & topknots
- Shaved lines, markings, words or pictures
- Mohawks

We do however accept graded skin fades into hair of a suitable style. The above list is not exhaustive and the Senior Leadership Team of the school reserve the right to decide which hair styles and colours are deemed to be extreme. There will be an amnesty on these styles in the run up to the summer break, however we ask that students take the opportunity over the six week holiday to grow out these styles ready for their return in September.

I would also like to reiterate our stance of piercings. Students are allowed to wear one pair of stud earrings (one stud in each ear). All other piercings including nose & tongue piercings are not permitted (Including clear plastic replacements) and students will be asked to remove these if found wearing them. We therefore ask if such piercings are planned that they take place at the beginning of the summer break so that they have healed and these items can be easily removed by September.

Mobile phones still remain a very contentious issue in education and the Secretary of State for Education does appear to be pushing for a ban on these devices in school. This is not however Government policy and until we are directed to do so our expectations remain the same. We recognise that mobile phones are part of everyday life for many children and that they can play an important role in helping students to feel safe. These devices also offer students an amazing tool for learning when given clear direction, however, we also recognise that they can prove a distraction in school and can provide a means of bullying or intimidating others. We expect that mobile phones and headphones:

- are not to be visible or out in lessons/form period unless directed by the teacher for educational purposes
- are not to be charged using plug sockets within the building
- are not to be visible or used between lessons and when students are moving around the building

If students are seen not adhering to these expectations, they will receive a warning and given the opportunity to rectify their actions. If they continue with their actions their phone will be confiscated, stored safely and only returned to a parent or carer at reception from 3.00pm. We ask that if a parent or carer does need to communicate information to a student, then they contact the school reception so that messages can be passed on without disruption to learning.

Once again, I would like to offer my thanks for your continued support of the College.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Rule  
HEADTEACHER