



July 2021

To: Parents and Carers of our new Year 7 students

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.

I would like to begin by, once again, thanking you for choosing Denton Community College as the school to provide secondary education for your child. We have been really pleased with the response from the admissions process this year having had a record number of parents naming us as their first choice school. This has led to us being oversubscribed for the next academic year. We are delighted your child has secured a place and we cannot wait to meet them, as part of the Class of 2026, in September.

Uniform

The vast majority of students at Denton Community College wear their uniform with pride and I am sure our new Year 7 will be no exception. Our students are our ambassadors. Therefore, our uniform is 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

The uniform has remained unchanged for a number of years, with the exception of the introduction of the new skirt in September 2020, which is to be worn to the knee. This is in recognition of the 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 made 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.

Hair Styles & Piercings

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 or 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

However, we do 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.

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. Therefore, we 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

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, current 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 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, they contact the school reception so that messages can be passed on without disruption to learning.

DCC Summer School

The dates of our summer school are **Monday 2nd** until **Friday 13th August 2021**. Mrs Duffy (Head of Community) will be emailing you with arrangements for the summer school on **Wednesday 14th July**. Please note that there will be no access to the school site via the Crown Point North entrance. Upon arrival, students should access the site via the main front gates on Taylor Lane and make their way through the carpark on the left hand side of the building to our Community Entrance. Students will be notified of any equipment / kit they need to bring with them and lunch will be provided free of charge by the College.

Induction Day

As you will be aware, Induction Days will be taking place for our new Year 7 cohort on **Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd September 2021**. On both days, students will be required to bring with them their usual learning equipment of a pen, pencil, ruler and rubber in a pencil case. They will not be required to bring either their PE or dance kit on either day. Lunch on both days will be provided free of charge by the College.

On **Thursday 2nd September**, we ask that all students arrive via the front (Taylor Lane) entrance to the College site. The Crown Point North / Russell Scott entrance (Between Game and H&M) will not be open in the morning. Upon arrival, we ask students to enter through the gates to the right of the front doors and make their way around the outside of the building onto the school playground. Their Head of Year and Form Tutor will meet them on the playground at 8.35am. Please note that parents and carers are not allowed through the gates by the front entrance and onto the yard; anyone accessing this area will be asked to leave immediately. Due to the usual traffic congestion on Induction Day, we ask parents & carers to consider using Crown Point North to pick up your child at the end of the day. To facilitate this, the Crown Point North entrance (Between Game and H&M) will be open at the end of the school day (2.50pm).

On **Friday 3rd September**, the Crown Point North entrance will be open from 8.15 until 8.40am. Once the school bell sounds at 8.40am, these gates will be locked and students will only be able to access the school site via the main entrance. If students are late to the Crown Point North entrance, they must retrace their steps and walk down Wilton Street next to Nando's, then turn right onto Taylor Lane. They will eventually reach the main entrance to the school and will not have to cross any roads. Once they have arrived at school, the students should again wait on the school playground until invited to enter the building by their Head of Year. These arrangements remain the same throughout the school year. Please note on the Friday there will be other students on site when they arrive; this is not something to worry about.

Monday 6th September

From **Monday 6th September**, all year groups will be in school from 8.30am. This is the time we welcome students into the building so they are ready for learning by 8.40am, the official start of the school day. On their Transition / Induction Days, students will have the expectations of the school explained to them, they will receive a tour of the building, have their photographs taken for our systems and will be introduced to how our school canteen works. From our experience, Year 7 very quickly settle into life at secondary school.

I hope this letter has answered some of the questions regarding the transition of your child into secondary education here at Denton Community College. Please do not hesitate to contact us here at the school if you have any further questions.

I would again like to offer my thanks for choosing Denton Community College. I would also like to extend my best wishes to everyone for a well-deserved summer holiday and I look forward to meeting all of our new Year 7 students in school on **2nd September 2021**.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Rule
HEADTEACHER