



FAO: Parents & Carers

RE: Seasonal Update

Dear Parents / Carers

As we near the end of the first term of this academic year, I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well at this time.

I would like to begin by expressing how proud we felt as a school upon receiving our recent Ofsted report (November 2021). Thanks go to our student body who really engaged with the inspectors and acted as great ambassadors for our school. Below are some of the phrases we are all particularly proud of within the report. They truly reflect life for students and staff here at Denton Community College and validate all the work that has been taking place over the past few years.

***'Pupils are confident, happy and articulate'***

***'Around the school, pupils conduct themselves well and they are keen to learn in class. They pay attention and concentrate well on their work.'***

***'Pupils forge strong relationships with their peers'***

***'Staff prepare pupils well for their future lives'***

***'Denton Community College remains a good school'***

If you missed my recent letter about Ofsted, you can read our latest report in full by following this [link](#).

As 2021 comes to a close we say goodbye to several members of staff:

- Miss Scott (Head of Drama) and Mrs Rowley (Teacher of Food Technology) will be leaving us for pastures new and we wish them well as they move on to the next stages of their career.
- Ms Owen (Head of Year 9) will be leaving to take up a new role with the charity Barnardo's. Ms Owen has worked at both Denton Community College and Egerton Park Arts College for 16 years. During that time she has been Head of Year to over a thousand students who I know would like to say thank you and wish her well for the future.
- Mrs Griffiths will be retiring at the end of term. She has worked at Denton Community College and Two Trees Sports College since 2006 in a variety of roles, including that of Head of Year. Best wishes from all the students and staff she has helped go with her.

On behalf of the students and stakeholders of the school I would like to say to all those leaving us, good luck and thank you for all your efforts in the education and welfare of the young people of Tameside.

Moving forward we feel very fortunate to be welcoming the following staff to the team here at Denton:

- Mrs Holness will be returning to the school as Teacher of Food Technology.
- Mr Lewis will be taking on the role of Head of Drama.
- Mrs Stevens will be joining us from a school in Stockport to become our new Head of Year 9.

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr G Rule

You will be aware that as a school we have been following the Department for Education's guidance that:

- ***Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt.***
- ***Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.***

There has been no further update on this since 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021. You will of course be aware of the Prime Ministers announcements on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December bringing in further restrictions on the population to help prevent the spread of the new Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus. Right the way through this pandemic schools have only ever received updates and guidance at the same time as the general public. In some cases the official emails have arrived after the televised briefings. We are therefore uncertain what the guidance for schools will be come the return of pupils to education in January. In line with current guidance we will however be offering lateral flow tests to students in school during their first week back. Further details regarding this will be shared with you in a letter from Mr Nixon early next week.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I would like to highlight a number of key updates to the College calendar. The additional Bank Holiday, which has been granted for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, falls at the beginning of June during our half term break. In lieu of this the Governing Board have given permission for this additional holiday to be placed at the end of the summer term. Consequently students will now break up on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. In addition to this our final Staff INSET Day of this academic year has now been calendared for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This will therefore be an additional days holiday for students.

We are still awaiting the final confirmed term dates for the 2022/23 academic year from Tameside Local Authority. As soon as these are released they will be shared with you and the College calendar will be updated accordingly. At this time we are assuming that the first day of the academic year will be Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September. If this is the case it will be taken as a Staff INSET Day and the first day of the new academic year for students will be Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022.

Finally arrangements for the end of term are as follows: College will close for Christmas at 11.30am on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December and will re-open for students on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the normal time of 8.40am.

I would once again like to thank you for your ongoing support with the education of the students at Denton Community College.

Yours sincerely



Greg Rule  
Headteacher