



September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin the new academic year, I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

For the first time in several years, we have welcomed the students back to school with no Covid-19 restrictions in place. It has been a very smooth start to the year and I am very pleased to be able to report how well our new Year 7 cohort are settling in, they are a real credit to their former primary schools.

As with each new academic year, we welcome new colleagues to the team here at Denton Community College. This year we say hello to:

- Mr L Dickson (Exams Officer)
- Miss A Fullen (Teacher of History)
- Miss A Ryan (Teacher of History)
- Mrs J Scanlon (Teacher of Ethics, Philosophy, Religion - EPR)
- Mr J Street (Teacher of English)
- Mr C Wedderburn (Teacher of Technology)
- Ms C Williams (Behaviour Manager)

I would like to comment on the appearance of our students upon their return to school this September. We consider all our students to be ambassadors for Denton Community College and the uniform they wear is a key aspect of this. The standard of uniform worn by our students this year has been exceptional and this is down to you, thank you. If you ever have any uncertainty regarding our uniform, please check out the uniform guidance which can be found in the 'Parents and Carers' section of our website which can be viewed via this [link](#).

Whilst we welcome our new Year 7 cohort we should recognise the achievements of those that have just left us, the Class of 2022. On Thursday 25th August we welcomed back over 260 students (90% of the year group) to pick up their GCSE results. Following the teacher assessments of 2020 and 2021, this year group once again sat formal external examinations along with their peers across the country. The outcomes for the Class of 2022 were fantastic, significant increases in attainment once again being demonstrated compared to previous years. I am sure you will join me in congratulating the Class of 2022 on their achievements as we wish them great success on the next step of their journey be it education, training or employment.

What the results of 2022 did demonstrate was that once again the biggest barrier to student achievement is poor attendance. Students need to be in school to access the curriculum, support and guidance necessary for them to reach their full potential. Here at Denton Community College the impact of a drop in attendance from 100% to 95% has an impact of 0.25 (¼) of a grade. The difference between a student attending over 90% and less than 90% is 1.25 (1 ¼) grades at GCSE. Whilst we recognise genuine illness and medical conditions, poor attendance is still very much a barrier that can be overcome.

In addition to poor attendance, the 2022 results also demonstrated the impact of poor punctuality on achievement. Put simply, if a student is late to lesson they are absent from learning and therefore the same impact is seen on achievement. The school day starts at 8.40am with students going straight to lesson, if students are late by 15 minutes during the course of the day, this is 5% of their learning missed which has the same 0.25 grade impact on their achievement. There is no excuse for any student being late to learning during the course of the day as 10-minute movement and sanitisation breaks are within the timetable between lessons.

Once again, this will be a very busy term with the return of our Year 6 Open Evening on Wednesday 28th September and hopefully a Christmas Fair early in December. All key dates throughout the academic year are on our College calendar, available [here](#) via our website.

In addition to their GCSE curriculum, this term Year 11 will also focus on their applications for Post-16 education and to support them with this various local providers will be delivering presentations as part of their assembly programme. We have already provided Year 11 with website links to all the local Post-16 providers as well as the dates and times of their Open Days / Evenings. This information is also on the College website and calendar. Year 11 will also undertake their first set of mock examinations from Monday 7th to Friday 18th November. This will be followed by their virtual Parents' Evening on Thursday 8th December 2022.

Finally, I would like to recognise the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II who ruled for 70 years, longer than any other monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. We will remember her for her sense of duty and devotion to a life of service. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family, our school community and the wider public during this difficult time. As you will be aware, the date of the State Funeral is Monday 19th September 2022 and is a national bank holiday. The school will be closed on this day as a mark of respect and will re-open on Tuesday 20th September at the normal time of 8.40am.

Once again, I would like to offer my thanks for your continued support of the College in the education of the young people of Tameside.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Rule
HEADTEACHER