



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.

Looking back over the last 12 months it may come as a surprise to many of you that this time last year I was writing to you regarding the wearing of masks in communal areas of the school and that lateral flow testing would be re-introduced when the students returned in January. This year however we have ended the year very much on a high as we saw the return of the Denton Community Christmas Fair. This year the fair was a collaborative event with our neighbours Russell Scott Primary School, which ensured a fantastic turn out from the community. On the day, we raised £950 for local charity Willow Wood Hospice bringing the total raised by the school to over £2500 for this year. In addition to our continuing free Breakfast Club provision we have also been able to support six local food banks in our community and one primary school with donations of over 550 packets of bagels and 600 boxes of cereal.

Our current Year 11 (Class of 2023) have had a very busy term with a series of assemblies from local post-16 providers, college open evenings, writing post-16 application forms, two weeks of mock examinations in November, Year 11 Engagement Evening and last week, Parents' Evening. As they continue to prepare for their GCSE examinations in May and June, our Extended Study sessions will resume after Christmas with a new timetable (see below). These sessions run from 2.50pm to 3.50pm Monday to Thursday.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Week 1	Option C	English	Maths	RE & Citizenship
Week 2	Option B		Science	Option A

Upon our return in January 2023 we begin a very busy period for our Year 9 students. Next half term will see the start of the options process, including a series of informative assemblies from our Heads of Subject and Year 9 exams will also be taking place. To support the options process there will be a Year 9 Parents' Evening as well as an Options Evening to support students in making the right curriculum choices for Years 10 and 11. Further details regarding these Year 9 events will be shared on our return.

As always I would like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support regarding school uniform. Our policy is very clear and can be found on the school website. I would like to remind everyone that whilst the weather is cold we will not be allowing our standards to slip and still expect the correct uniform to be worn inside the school building at all times. In particular this refers to the wearing of hoodies and coats within the school building. Plain black or DCC branded hoodies should only be worn on days where students have either PE or dance and coats should not be worn inside the building.

I would also like to remind everyone of the importance of attendance and punctuality to school. The standards we set are not only there to prepare students with good habits for further education and work, the impact these have on academic achievement are significant. We often talk of the 90% attendance mark in education and here at Denton Community College there is no exception. Our records since opening show that students who attend for less than 90% of the time achieve on average 1 ½ grades lower than their peers. It should also be noted that students who are in school but have poor punctuality are also impacted by the same margins.

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr G Rule

Even if students are in school and not in lessons, they are absent from learning and therefore do not make the same progress as their peers. Do not forget you can track the attendance, punctuality and behaviour of your child through our Class Charts App. If you require assistance in engaging with this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

As we come to the end of 2022, we say goodbye to Miss Carter (Teacher of English) and Mr Barber our IT Network Technician who will be leaving us for pastures new. I am sure you will join me in wishing them well as they move on to the next stage of their careers.

As we look forward to the year ahead, I would like to highlight a number of key dates on the Denton Community College calendar:

- 8<sup>th</sup> May - National Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III
- 15<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June - Class of 2023 GCSE Examination Season
- 29<sup>th</sup> June - Class of 2023 Prom
- 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June - Year 10 Work Experience
- 21<sup>st</sup> July - Last day of the summer term
- 24<sup>th</sup> August - Class of 2023 Results Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> September - Students return to school in September

Please note we will share with parents and carers our finalised holiday pattern for the 2023/24 academic year upon our return in January 2023.

Finally arrangements for the end of term are as follows: College will close for Christmas at 11.30am on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and will re-open for students on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the normal time of 8.40am. There will be no school canteen service on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, however students who receive Free School Meals will be able to order a grab bag for collection. To order a grab bag, please email [info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk](mailto:info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk) with your child's full name and year group. Whilst the school bus service will operate as normal to bring students to school there will be no homeward service on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and students will therefore have to make alternative arrangements for their journey home.

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

Yours sincerely



Greg Rule  
Headteacher