



31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we near the end of the term, I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I wanted to give you an update, particularly on our actions following the Ofsted inspection. We have begun to forge close links with our School Improvement Partner and are putting together an action plan to respond to each of the areas identified by Ofsted. Some actions are already either in place or underway.

Students have spoken to us very clearly about their lunchtime experience. This week, Year 7 and Year 8 have swapped lunches as a first step to improve this. This means that Year 8, which is by far our largest year group, has access to additional serving points. Student feedback has already been very positive about the speed of the queues to pay, the impact on their enjoyment of lunch and, importantly, improved behavior in the lunch queues.

In the next few weeks I will be looking at the structure of the school day to see if there are further changes that could be made early next term. My aim is to return to having a morning break time with food available for students to purchase. There may well be other changes we can make to the school day in the future, and these will form part of our action plan.

We have also begun to tackle the use of rude, derogatory and discriminatory language with the students. In the feedback they have given us it is clear that the majority of our students are as unhappy with this language as we are and as you are. No student should have to experience this in school and I ask that you help us by reinforcing the message at home. It is simply not acceptable and it is something that will need your support to continue to challenge.

Staff in school are very clear that the safety, and feeling of safety, is our highest priority and must be part of our DCC DNA. To support this, we will shortly be launching a new app that will allow students to report safeguarding concerns instantly and, if they wish to do so, anonymously. As soon as this has been set up further information will come out to you and to students.

I would like to take this moment to highlight some very positive action related to student safety. Unlike many schools, all students at Denton Community College study GCSE RE or GCSE Citizenship at Key Stage Four. This is part of our explicit intent to develop well-rounded young people who are able to understand and thrive in modern Britain. One of our Year 11 GCSE Citizenship groups has completed a project on the sexual harassment and derogatory language faced by young women in society and online. They recently gave a presentation on their project to several Tameside councilors and the Tameside Domestic Abuse team. As a result of their passion and eloquence, they have been asked to contribute to the development of a new educational resource aimed at reducing sexual harassment that will be delivered to **all** schools in Tameside.

We will also be looking at other aspects of safety, building on the work we have done on being diligent, considerate and courteous. As an example, we will be considering the role that mobile phones play in disruption to learning and poor behaviour in school.

One further area that is crucial is the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Mr Rule has written in the past about the difference this makes to student progress. It sounds very obvious but if a student is not in school then they are not learning and it will have a significant impact on their educational outcomes. We are working hard to get students into school but we need your support to ensure your child not only attends school but that they arrive on time. Lessons begin at 8:40 and students should arrive at school at 8:30 in order to be at their classrooms ready to learn on time.

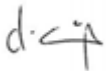
As promised in the letter last week, there will be monthly updates about our progress. If you have any feedback on the areas mentioned in this letter I would very much welcome it. I have created a Google Form if you would like to do this, which you can access by [following this link](#).

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr G Rule

I think it is important to take a moment to credit Year 11 with their mature approach to the recent set of mock exams. This was the last 'practice' before the real exams start soon. It is amazing how soon this has come around and it is important that they take an organized approach to the revision they should be doing. All Year 11 students were provided with a 'How to revise' guide full of useful tips, which should be used alongside the resources that class teachers have provided. With hard work and dedicated revision I know they will be able to be confident going into their GCSEs and other qualifications.

I would like to finish by thanking you and the students for your response to the Ofsted report. I understand your concerns and want to reassure you that we will work tirelessly to respond to each of the recommendations. I hope that Mr Rule will return soon after the Easter break and I am sure that, like us, you will look forward to his return.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Cumming  
Acting Headteacher