



20th July 2023

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. It has been a significant year for Denton Community College, one which has certainly had challenges and difficult truths for us to face up to, but where we end the year moving forward on a journey of rapid improvement.

I must start the letter by acknowledging the key messages of the December Ofsted inspection and the report published in March. All of us in the Senior Leadership Team understood your concerns and I hope that I was able to reassure you about tireless work we immediately began, with the support of our School Improvement Partner, to respond to each of the recommendations. You will be aware of many of the changes we implemented to begin to improve student safety. These included changing the school day to end 'transition times', introducing a breaktime with staff on additional duty points, reducing the number of supply teachers being used, buying the new Sharp System for reporting concerns, phasing out the use of mobile phones and initiating an increased focus on tackling the use of rude, derogatory, and discriminatory language. Student views have been integral to the changes, and we have consulted with parents and staff where possible also. I hope you feel that behaviour and safety have improved at the pace you would expect.

We have recently had our first Ofsted monitoring visit. We are expecting their letter to be sent to us in September and will share it with you when it arrives. We are not able to comment on their visit, but I am hopeful they will have seen green shoots of progress as a result of the comprehensive action plan we have put together, supported by our School Improvement Partner, the Tame River Educational Trust. Their excellent work that, with our own work, is already making a real difference and I must thank them for the approach they have taken. They have provided real challenge as well as providing expertise and support at all levels of the school. We also now have an Interim Executive Board providing robust governance for the school.

Of course, we are still in the early stages of our improvement journey. Mr Haslam, our Deputy Headteacher, wrote to you outlining the changes that will be in place in September as we continue to raise our expectations of student behaviour and appearance. Please do check this letter carefully as it includes details of our 'gate to gate' mobile devices policy, the new 'courteous dining' approach, how The Denton Way works, the new entrance routines in the morning and uniform changes. It also explains our 'red lines' and the serious consequences for them. I expect that every child, and staff member, should learn in an environment where unacceptable behaviour has been eliminated and I am sure you will agree that there is no place for these 'red line' behaviours in the school your child attends.

Along the way there has also been a considerable amount to celebrate, as you will have seen from the recent newsletters.

- Our Fusion Dance group have had a spectacular year. They moved swiftly through the Calling U Out national competition, first competing at the Lowry Theatre and then in June triumphing in a number of categories at Blackpool's famous Winter Gardens.
- Our GreenPower engineering team won the Tameside competition, building an electric car from scratch and then racing it against other schools.
- Our Year 11 GCSE Citizenship group led a project on reducing misogynistic language. They presented to local Councillors, Civic Mayor, and the Tameside lead on reducing Violence against Women and Girls. They

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

also had input on new PSHE resources aimed at students across the local authority. I was very impressed with the confidence with which this group showed the impact that being an active citizen can have.

- As well as some impressive team and individual successes, the PE department have continued their drive to encourage as many students as possible to participate in sports and fitness activities. It is a pleasure to see the large numbers staying healthy through activities such as Friday basketball, our 'Tough Mudder' competition and the Cross Fit sessions. We hope to offer an even wider range of co-curricular clubs next year.
- Our careers focused activities continue to develop, from the annual careers fair to subject focused events such as the recent 'girls into advanced Mathematics' sessions.
- Student leadership also continues to grow. Our new student prefect team has just been chosen, the number of sports leaders has increased and our 'Scholars Programme' has once again resulted in some impressive outcomes.
- The school production of Matilda was outstanding. If you were lucky enough to see the show then you'll know just how good it was this year!

At this time of year we always say a fond farewell to a number of staff who are moving on, thank them for their contribution to Denton Community College and wish them all the best in their future endeavours: Mrs Marsland (Maths), Ms Hurdle (Science), Mrs Dutton (Science), Ms Lindemann (Maths), Mr Riley (Graphics), Mr Babbage (Photography), Ms Martin (Geography), Ms Wright (English), Mr Clarke (Behaviour Manager), Mrs Brierley (Catering Manager). I would also like to take this moment to wish Mr Rule, our substantive Headteacher, a speedy recovery.

It is always worth mentioning that Tameside libraries offer a free book loan service for local residents, something that I know many parents find very useful. They now have an online service that includes e-books and audio books, which can be joined at <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/libraries/joining/information>

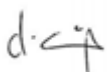
I look forward to seeing the students return on Wednesday 6th September ready for the new academic year.

- Year 7 must arrive through the front gates and line up on the playground in uniform and with their equipment in their bags for 8:30am
- Years 8-11 must arrive through the front gates and line up on the playground in uniform and with their equipment in their bags for 9:45am

Finally, we have been advised that the bus services are being updated to reflect the new school day. All information for schools will be available before September on the 'one stop shop for schools' website. This site also provides information on the many ways to travel to school as well as how to apply for passes, such as Igo and 'Our Pass'. [Travelling to school | Transport for Greater Manchester \(tfgm.com\)](#)

Once again, I would like to offer my thanks for your continued support of the College.

Yours faithfully,



Donald Cumming
Acting Headteacher