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Outcomes Focused, Child Centred

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the Department for Education and Tameside Local Authority have sought, and secured, support from Northern Education Trust (NET) to lead Denton Community College (DCC) since the beginning of September 2023 - with the long-term view of DCC joining NET as soon as possible (subject to due diligence and NET Board approval).

High performing multi academy trusts build staffing capacity in advance of need in order to be prepared to support or sponsor other schools when asked. As a result, NET has already redeployed the following staff to support the students and staff at DCC:

- Andrew Jordon, Senior Executive Principal
- Dean Buckley, Executive Principal
- Andrew Newton, Associate Executive Principal
- Suzanne Gayton, Director of Maths
- Lauren Brown, Director of English
- Nic Jahangir, Director of Science
- Terrance Balmer, Director of History
- Kyle Bruce, Director of Geography
- Rob Hillier, Director of Languages

Proven successful track record

Northern Education Trust has built a reputation of transforming schools in some of the most deprived areas in England. All academies that have been inspected in the Trust are now judged to be Good or Outstanding, with the percentage of students achieving a good pass in both GCSE English and Maths increasing by over 20 percentage points since the pre-pandemic results. Recently, 5 of the top ten most improved schools in the North East of England are part of the NET family. This clearly embodies the Trust's vision of 'outcomes focused, child centred'.

My executive team and I have observed Denton over the last 2 weeks and we believe there is significant potential for transformational change in a very short period of time. On Thursday, 21st September, we hosted a parents' information evening where we gave an overview of what it means to be part of our Trust. The feedback from all of those who attended was one of both support and excitement. We are committed to enhancing the life chances of students who attend the school and will implement systems that will be sustainable and impactful regardless of future sponsorship.

Praise Culture

During the parents meeting, we outlined the positive impact our school improvement systems have on the outcomes of our children and young people, but also how this is part of a much bigger picture where an ethos

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of praise and opportunity permeate throughout. We informed parents about how we celebrate the work students are proud of at a high-profile weekly event; how we provide educational visits free of charge because we believe they are part of our core curriculum programme and how we celebrate student's progression from key stage 3 to 4 with a Year 9 graduation where all students wear a cap and gown and parents/carers are invited in to the academy to join in the celebrations.

We are passionate about reading and encourage students to read through an extensive reading strategy. The three strands to our reading strategy ensure all students are supported, regardless of their ability level.

Providing unique experiences

As a Trust, we believe that if you want to host any event or introduce a new initiative it should be done on the biggest scale possible. For example, in addition to a normal sports day on the school field, we hire the whole of Gateshead International Stadium to host the NET Games where all academies are represented in field and track athletic events. Last year, we also hired the Sage Theatre in Gateshead to celebrate the Arts where each academy performed in front of a packed-out arena.

High Expectations

Clearly, we have high expectations in all we do as a Trust and this includes our standards of behaviour. During our parent's information meeting, we agreed what our expectations are with regards to non-negotiables. Parents and staff were unanimous that some behaviours cannot be tolerated in school and could ultimately lead to any perpetrator losing their right to their education in that school. Examples include carrying knives/weapons, dealing of drugs/alcohol, setting off the fire alarm, and bullying.


At the meeting, we discussed launching our behaviour policy. We will implement this in phases, starting with our 'Expectations for Learning' system with Year 8 on Monday. In addition to having a ban on mobile phones (which remains in place), it was agreed that we would like most of our conversations to be about learning and not about the things that often 'get in the way'. Consequently, we have decided that students will no longer be able to wear jewellery or make-up to school. We also agreed that whilst we all like the school uniform at Denton, some students are not wearing it appropriately. We agreed that we must address this. Students must wear the school tie and skirts will be accompanied with tights (minimum 60 denier). We will communicate our very clear plans about this with you and your children over the coming weeks with a view to these new standards (jewellery, make-up and uniform) being enforced after October half term.

It is clear from the meeting that parents/carers and staff want the very best for all children at Denton and I am excited to see how the academy develops in the coming weeks, and builds upon some of the good practice already in place.

If you would like to see some of the trust processes in action, I would be delighted to welcome you to any of our academies so you can witness first-hand the high-quality educational offer our students receive. If this is of interest to you please contact the Headteacher's PA at info@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk and we will make sure a visit is facilitated.

Regardless of future sponsorship, I am delighted we can offer support in the interim to students and staff and thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,



Rob Tarn CBE
Chief Executive Officer