



29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to give a quick update on what has been a very busy and positive week at Denton Community College.

Following on from the parent meeting and letter last week, we have launched the new Expectations for Learning policy with Year 8. Colleagues from across Northern Education Trust have supported us all week and have been a strong presence across the building, helping to ensure students get to lessons on time and are focused on their learning. I would ask you to reinforce our message that students must not refuse a 'reasonable request' from staff – it is a simple expectation but an important one.

We have also begun to introduce the new Learning Framework in lessons. I'm sure you will have heard of the new collaborative classroom layouts, the new NET curriculum resources and also the move to a positive praise culture. Some real highlights for me this week have been hearing the 'applause moments' coming from classrooms, the 'extra applause' boards on doors and the wonderful first 'PROUD Thursday' lunchtime experience. You can see PROUD Thursday in action if you follow our @Denton\_College Twitter/X account.



We also had NET Curriculum Directors in school, working directly with Year 11s to improve their English and Maths skills. Form time has changed for Year 11 to support this, we've had small group interventions running and significant numbers of highly-motivated students staying after school to keep building their knowledge.

Looking ahead, next week we have the Year 9 Guided Pathways evening on Tuesday (5-7pm) and then the hard work revising the school timetable will begin. Looking further on, the changes outlined in the letter sent out last Friday from Northern Education Trust, around make-up, jewellery and tights will be in place after half-term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and staff that made our Open Evening such a success this week. It was a privilege to see the students demonstrate their talent, maturity and potential with such confidence.

Finally, I would like to finish by focusing on ensuring that our students always attend school whenever possible. When my team analyses exam performance, the factor that has the biggest impact on GCSE grades is poor attendance. I am genuinely excited by the strategies that Northern Education Trust are bringing to Denton Community College – but for students to make the most of them, they need to be in school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "d. cumming".

Donald Cumming  
Acting Headteacher