



7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on some of this week's activities here at DCC, and to give a few reminders about the coming changes now we are working alongside Northern Education Trust.

This week some of the strategies we have begun are:

- The new 'Learning Framework' has been introduced to all lessons. This includes hands up for silence, applause moments, collaborative seating, 'more applause' boards & PROUD standards.
- The Expectations for Learning policy is now in place with Year 11 as well as Year 8.
- Year 8, 9 and 10 reading tests are underway to inform our new literacy interventions.
- We held 'Apple for a Teacher' day, Friday Headteacher's rewards and the amazing PROUD Thursday. Over 200 students brought work they were proud of this week; all year groups were involved and every subject was represented. Please do look at the @Denton\_College Twitter/X account to see these in action!

You will also have seen an increased staff presence before and after school each day. We are easy to spot in our High-Vis Northern Education Trust jackets. Please come and talk to us if you have any questions or feedback about our improvement journey.

I would also like to take a moment to remind you of the changes that are coming after half-term as we continue to raise our expectations for the students. These were discussed and agreed at the parent meeting in September.

- A new timetable for **all** students will start after half-term. Year 9 will be on their new pathways and examined courses. Years 10 and 11 will have the new curriculum that maximises their chances of success. As soon as the new timetable is ready we will be sharing it with students.
- Skirts must be worn with 60+ denier tights. We have bought many tights to support students as needed, and the alternative option of wearing trousers is available. It is pleasing to see so many students already adopting this new rule!
- Students will no longer be able to wear jewelry or make-up to school. This includes earrings; students are not allowed to wear any earrings after half term. We will have make-up cleansing wipes ready should any student forget to follow this rule as they arrive at school and get to the 'purple line'.

If you need any support with these changes please get in touch with your child's pastoral team.

As usual, I would like to finish by once again encouraging you to send your students to school whenever they are well enough to be here and for them to be on time to school. Good attendance has a significant impact on outcomes and is something I am passionate about. Arriving late to school means they are missing out on essential knowledge as well as disrupting the learning of the lessons they arrive late to. I hope that by working together we can improve attendance and punctuality as a shared priority.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'd cumming'.

Donald Cumming  
Acting Headteacher