



20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing with an update on the school's improvement journey and to remind you about the changes that will be in place after half term. It has been an exceptionally busy half term and we have had a significant amount of support from colleagues in Northern Education Trust.

You will see that the new school newsletter is also attached to this letter. Please do take the time to read it as I have tried to spotlight just some of the new systems that have been introduced since September. You might have heard your child talking about PROUD Thursday or Applause Moments in lessons and wondered what they mean in reality. A positive praise culture is a fundamental part of the Northern Education Trust and I am sure you will be as enthusiastic about as we are about introducing them to Denton Community College. The newsletter also highlights some fantastic achievements by our students, lists Year 11 enrichment nights and explains important terms such as a 'reasonable request'. Please do share the newsletter with any friends and family who might be interested.

The key changes for after half term are:

> A new timetable for **all** students. Years 9, 10 and 11 will all now be studying their new '3 option' examination curriculum. This is the same curriculum model as at all Northern Education Trust schools, and will have the same effect on transforming exam results at DCC. **The new timetables will be given out during lesson one on Monday 30th October.**

> The structure of the school day has been changed to improve the experience of students and allow them to enjoy social time in a calmer, less busy space and to return to lessons ready to learn.

- Years 9 and 11 will have first break (Years 7, 8 and 10 have tutor time first)
- Years 7, 8 and 10 have second break (Years 9 and 11 will have tutor time second)

| | Period | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 8.40 - 9.40 | 1 | 1hr |
| 9.40 - 10.40 | 2 | 1hr |
| 10.40 - 11.30 (50 mins) | 20 min break/30 min tutor | |
| 10.40 - 11.30 (50 mins) | 30 min tutor/20 min break | |
| 11.30 - 12.30 | 3 | 1hr |
| 12.30 - 2.00 | 4 | 3 x 30 min lunch |
| 2.00 - 3.00 | 5 | 1hr |

Each year group will have a dedicated eating area at lunchtime and two dedicated serving points. All food must be eaten inside sat at a table. Year 7 have their own lunchtime which is something they have been very positive about.

- Years 9 and 11 will have first lunch (Years 7, 8 and 10 have lessons at this time)
- Year 7 has second lunch (all other years have lessons)
- Years 8 and 10 have third lunch (Years 7, 9 and 11 will have lessons)

As the school day now begins with lesson one, it is **absolutely essential** that your child arrives at school in good time before the lesson begins. I make no apologies for talking about the importance of good attendance

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

and punctuality in every letter I send to parents. If your child is in school on time every day, they behave well and work hard they will achieve great things here at Denton Community College.

> We have increased our expectations around uniform, bringing us in line with other Northern Education Trust schools. Students will no longer be able to wear any jewelry, including earrings. Students are not allowed to wear any earrings after half term and will be asked to take them off and hand them in if found wearing them (they can be collected by the student that night).

Similarly, make up cannot be worn. 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' which will be painted as the threshold for the rules.

And of course, skirts must be worn with plain black 60+ denier tights. We have bought many pairs of tights to support students if they forget to wear them and they will be expected to change into them. The alternative option of wearing trousers is available but it is pleasing to see so many students already adopting this new rule!

> We will move all year groups to the Expectations for Learning behaviour system in the weeks following half term. At the moment we are using it with Years 7, 8 and 11, but it won't be long before all students will be enjoying the benefits of the system. The underpinning principle is that students are responsible for their own behaviour and are given opportunities to learn to regulate their behaviour in lessons.

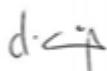
> You will also have seen an increased staff presence before and after school each day, wearing our new high-vis vests. Students tell us that seeing so many high-vis vests makes them feel safer and we hope you feel the same. Please come and talk to us if you have any questions or feedback about our improvement journey.

> **How will students get their timetable?** All students should go to their usual form room at the start of the day on Monday 30th October. This is when they will get their new timetable, which will begin that day. We have already had assemblies on the new school day but teachers in that first lesson will talk students through the changes and how the new approach to lunchtimes will work. Years 7 and 10 should bring their PE kit. All students should bring their Maths, English and Science books to school.

There are many more exciting plans for the next half term as we continue to align ourselves with Northern Education Trust. These include new ways to encourage reading, improved student voice opportunities and a greater emphasis on collaborative learning in lessons.

I would like to finish by congratulating the students for the positive way they have responded to all the changes we have brought in this have term. I have been incredibly impressed, as have all the staff from Northern Education Trust, and I am filled with great pride seeing the huge numbers of students attending PROUD Thursday and the 106 Year 11 students that stayed back for after-school Maths enrichment this week.

Yours faithfully,



Donald Cumming
Acting Headteacher