



12th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of the term approaches, I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. It has been a very busy term here, but a positive one, as we have continued on our rapid improvement journey as part of the Northern Education Trust family. Our first meeting with Mr Jordon, Senior Executive Principal, and Mr Buckley, Executive Principal, took place on the first Monday of the new school year and a huge amount has been achieved in the 14 weeks since then.

I think it is worth taking a moment to reflect on just some of those changes:

- PROUD Tuesdays have become a wonderful weekly event, with 246 students bringing their work along with pride on the day that we were visited by Baroness Barran
- The Praise Culture has been built on, with applause moments in lessons, PROUD stickers, praise postcards and extra applause boards on every classroom
- We have rewritten the timetable, with a renewed focus on ensuring better outcomes for students, particularly in core subjects
- We are using the Northern Education Trust curriculum across all subjects, with NET subject directors providing direct, expert support to staff and to students
- We have restructured the school day, ensuring that lunches and breaktimes are calmer and more relaxing for students
- We have introduced the NET Learning Framework, a high-impact approach to teaching that has transformed the learning experience of students
- We have restructured our SEND department and have NET staff based in school to help us to further improve this area of the school's work
- All students have access to the free Need to Know books and Year 11 were given bags of bespoke revision guides to take home after our Fish n Tips event
- We have introduced a new cycle of assessments, with more than 100 Year 11 students arriving at 8am every day for early morning booster sessions during the STEP 2 assessments
- We have weekly enrichment sessions for Year 11. In January, English will be on a Monday and Maths will always be on a Thursday. As a result of the new culture we have developed, Year 11 are on track to achieve record breaking results - and the best in the school's history!
- We have raised the bar for behaviour in the school – our Expectations for Learning policy allows staff to focus on teaching and we have tackled the defiance and truancy that a small number of students were displaying on the corridors. This has made students feel safer.

I am looking forward to the next steps in what is an exciting journey with Northern Education Trust. I know that next term we will be beginning our new approach to student voice and leadership, introducing the Reading Routes and building on the work we have begun around collaborative learning in the classroom. We will also be developing new approaches to ensure that all students attend school regularly.

Linked to Reading Routes, it is always worth mentioning that Tameside libraries offer a free book loan service for local residents, something that can really help with developing a love of reading.

ACTING HEADTEACHER: Mr D Cumming

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>

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. Some of these colleagues have been a part of the DCC staff for many years and I know will be much missed by current and former students alike: Mrs Bird (Music), Ms Preston-Webb (Art), Mrs Flowers (English), Mr Hamid (Science), Ms Davies (Dance), Ms Finan (Science), Mrs Slinger (Science), Mrs Shaw (data manager), Mrs Stevenson (SEND), Ms Scanlan (RE/PSHE).

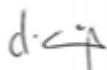
We will break up at 12:30 this Friday, with grab bag lunches available for students on Free School Meals – an order form will be sent out to eligible families. There will be no bus service on Friday after school.

I look forward to seeing the students return on Wednesday 3rd January ready for the new term. Please ensure that students arrive with full uniform and equipment, ready to be greeted by the staff team as they arrive at the 'purple line'. Students should go to their form room on 3rd January for an initial 'welcome back' session where any missing timetables will be given out and any missing equipment followed up. They will then go to their timetabled lessons.

We will be doing a big push to improve morning punctuality next term and it is essential that students are in school for 8:30 so they can be in lessons learning when the first lesson begins at 8:40am.

Once again, I would like to offer my thanks for your continued support of the College and wish you a relaxing and restful holidays.

Yours faithfully,



Donald Cumming
Acting Headteacher