

28th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing with an end of term update, both looking back at some of the highlights since January and looking forward to the rest of the school year working with the Northern Education Trust family.

It certainly has been a busy term. I have had the privilege of experiencing a number of these events in person, and I am very proud of the students who have got involved in all of them:

- Reading Routes and DEAR lessons began, as part of our drive to promote a love of reading. The 'Drop Everything and Read' lessons are a joy to watch and it has been equally joyful seeing students use the new book vending machine to collect their prizes.
- PROUD Thursday has gone from strength to strength. I am bowled over by the number of students that bring work to the PROUD table each week, and we've continued to have special guests join us in celebrating the hard work of our young people.
- E1 Star students and Most Improved students have been rewarded with celebration events. This is to recognise those students putting the most effort into every lesson.
- Our Duke of Edinburgh students completed their expedition. This was a challenging route, carrying rucksacks, tents and food as they navigated their way to the campsites.
- We have hosted the primary school indoor athletics competitions, with our sports leaders supporting each event.
- We have had new sporting experiences, including a team at the Manchester Panathlon and a group of students giving BMX racing a try. Watch out for the after-school enrichment programme that is coming out shortly...we'll even have darts on offer for students!
- Love to Learn was introduced for Years 7 and 8. Did your child get involved with this creative approach to homework? Did they also get involved in our Science Week competition?
- The six Student Voice committees are now up and running, advising the school leadership team. We also carried out a comprehensive student survey.
- We held our Student President election, with Years 7-10 all voting for three fantastic candidates. The inauguration ceremony, with speeches and amazing dance performances, was spectacular.

I must also take a moment to say how proud I am of our Year 11 students, for their dedication to their studies and achieving the highest outcomes they can. During STEP 4 we had over 100 students arriving at 8am and staying until after 4pm each day for additional revision sessions. There is a comprehensive offer of support all the way to the last exam, and we had a fantastic 'Pizza Advice' night to launch the final push to the exams.

As ever, the end of a school term sees some much-loved colleagues moving on to new challenges and adventures. I would like to thank Mr Knott, Mr Mellor and Mr Gillon-Nield for their years of dedication to the young people of Denton and our school. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them the very best for the future. Alongside this, I must congratulate Mrs Hampson who has been promoted to the post of Deputy Headteacher here at Denton.

I must also share another important development that is also happening after Easter: we will be joined by Mr McKeon for the whole summer term, working as a Deputy Headteacher. Mr McKeon is an experienced senior leader from another NET school and will be leading on DEEP Support. At the same time, Mr Haslam has been invited to support another school for the summer term as they start their improvement journey within NET.

This is a reflection of Mr Haslam's great experience and skills, and a recognition of the progress made along our own improvement journey.

We have also completed our consultation on the school day, as I [wrote to you](#) about last week. Please remember that after the Easter holidays, our school day will follow this format:

Time	Session
8.20am	First morning bell - time to move to lessons
8.25am	Lesson 1
9.25am	Lesson 2
10.25am	VMG/Break
11.00am	Lesson 3
12.00pm	Lesson 4/Lunch
1.30pm	Lesson 5
2.30pm	Enrichment

I am sure that, like so many of the other changes we have made this year as we become aligned with NET, it will soon feel like we have always done things this way.

As well as the new school day, the summer term will also be a busy one, with something for students of all years to really make the most of. This will include:

- Our after-school enrichment offer will be launched.
- The EBACC experiences will begin – curriculum-linked events that are free for whole year groups.
- Our team will participate in the GreenPower challenge at Tameside College
- The wrap-around support for Year 11 will continue.
- The next set of Need to Know books will be given out to students. These should be used daily at home to embed key knowledge.
- Our drive to improve punctuality and attendance will increase, led by Mr Day and Mr Mackreth. **I will continue to stress how vital it is that students attend school every day**, unless it is absolutely unavoidable. Good attendance has a significant impact on outcomes, and we must all play our part in ensuring students have in school accessing their education.

A close partnership between home and school is the foundation of student success - thank you for continuing to support your child and the school.

I think these comments from students about their perceptions of how we're doing would be a good place to finish.

- ✓ *I have opportunity to learn more in lessons and they are less disrupted since we have become a NET school."*
- ✓ *"After NET joined our school, it became a much safer environment"*
- ✓ *"I think you can achieve anything at any school, it doesn't matter what school you go to. Just work hard and you can succeed! However, I do believe that I have learnt so much, particularly in year 11"*

Yours faithfully,



Donald Cumming
Acting Headteacher