



9th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

With a few weeks until the end of a very busy year here at Denton Community College, I am writing to you to encourage an even stronger focus on good attendance and punctuality to ensure the best habits are set even before we get to the new school year. These are essential habits that not only contribute to academic success but also prepare your child for future responsibilities and opportunities.

Before I outline some of the steps we are taking, it is worth pausing to remember that regular attendance and punctuality bring numerous benefits to your child's education, including:

1. **Academic Achievement:** Consistent attendance ensures that your child remains engaged with the curriculum, participates in class discussions, and can learn the important knowledge being taught. This directly impacts their grades and overall academic outcomes.
2. **Skills for Life:** Being present and on time helps your child develop essential life skills such as time management, responsibility, and discipline. These skills are foundational for success in both personal and professional life.
3. **Building Relationships:** Regular attendance helps your child build and maintain strong relationships with their teachers and peers. These connections are vital for creating a supportive and engaging learning environment.
4. **Personal Growth:** Each school day offers new opportunities for learning, growth, and personal development. Ensuring your child is present allows them to take full advantage of these valuable experiences.

Research and evidence consistently show that good attendance is closely linked to improved academic outcomes, as well as longer-term benefits such as higher chances of continuing education and better employment prospects.

There are two areas we will be focusing on between now and the start of the new school year: poor punctuality to school and lateness to lessons. Every time a student arrives late, they are not only negatively affecting their own learning they are also disturbing the learning of their classmates. This is something that I know you will be keen to support and is something that our students have raised as a key concern for them.

What will happen if my child is late to lessons?

- ❖ Any student who arrives late to lesson without a good reason will quietly be given a 'C4 Other' sticker by their teacher and will have earned themselves a one-hour detention the following night. They should arrive at their lesson with the planner open on the correct date so that this can happen without any additional disruption to learning. If they have a reason for being late they **MUST** have a note that explains why written in their planner.

What will happen if a child disturbs the lesson or refuses to get their planner out?

- ❖ The member of staff will calmly use the usual Expectations for Learning system. I do expect that all students will arrive with their planners if they are ever late and ask that you check their bags every day to ensure your child has their planners with them.

When will this begin?

- ❖ This will start from next Monday, 15th July. These changes will bring us into line with all other Northern Education Trust schools and, I hope you will agree, will robustly tackle those students who are in the habit of arriving late to lessons regularly and disturbing the learning of their peers.

How will I know if my child has a detention?

- ❖ The planner. It is even more important that every student brings their planner to school every day. This is where the detention stickers will be put and is the key method that we will use to communicate with you. Please check this every night. Staff will issue the stickers in a quiet and calm manner and we expect students to respond in the same way, and then attend their detention.

We have seen a significant improvement in the punctuality of students to school in the morning since we have changed the school day, but there are still too many students who arrive late and then disturb the learning of their classmates. This is the next stage in our punctuality drive.

What will happen if my child is late to school in the morning?

- ❖ From September, all students who are late to school will have earned themselves a one-hour detention the following night. A sticker will be put in their planner to indicate this. If they do not attend their detention they will have earned a C5 supervision day. Please talk to your child if they have been late on more than one occasion this term, so you can help tackle why they are being late.

What if there is an unavoidable delay in getting to school on time?

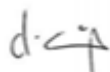
- ❖ We understand that there may be times when challenges arise, making it difficult for your child to attend school or arrive on time. If you ever find yourself in such a situation, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Our teachers and pastoral staff are here to support you and your child in finding solutions to any obstacles you may encounter.

Please report all student absence, lateness and medical appointments to the attendance line.
0161 337 3838 or to attendance@dentoncommunitycollege.org.uk

As parents and carers, your involvement and support are crucial in reinforcing the importance of good attendance and punctuality. By encouraging these habits at home, you are helping your child develop a strong foundation for their future success – thank you for your full support with this. Let's set the highest standard now so that the new academic year begins on the front foot!

I do hope that you've also seen some of our recent highlights on our social media, from the Year 11 Leavers' Assembly and Prom to PROUD on tour in the primary schools. We really have made some fantastic steps forward this year and I am keen for you to enjoy them too.

Yours faithfully



Donald Cumming
Acting Principal