



19th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems like only a short time ago that I was writing to you to welcome in the new academic year, yet we are already coming up to the end of the summer term! It has been a year of significant improvements and key to this has been the exceptional support we have received as part of the Northern Education Trust family.

We have had a number of highlights this year, too many to include in full. I would like to shine a spotlight on one or two though, as I think they tell the story of improvement this year:

- Greatly improved standards of behaviour and Expectations for Learning, including our new PLC and Bridge provisions
- A completely new curriculum, written and quality assured by the NET subject director teams – many of whom were here three days a week – and assessed through the six STEP assessment windows
- Our new praise culture, from postcards to the wonderful PROUD Thursday
- A new reading culture: DEAR lessons, Reading Routes, Lexonik and much more. Why not keep your child reading over the summer [by joining a local library](#)
- Year 11 enrichment, attended by hundreds of students each night (and at weekends)
- EBACC experiences for all students in Years 7-9, completely free of charge
- Events to reward students: E1 star students, most-improved students, attendance rewards, Year 9 graduation
- A new approach to student voice: the six committees & our amazing Student President, having impact on recycling, learning and of course Culture Day
- Additional enrichment, including the performing arts, new clubs such as our darts club, and sports opportunities – including sports leaders and our Year 11 girls football champions

It really has been a busy year! The proof of the pudding will be in the summer exam results, and I am looking forward to being able to share these with you at the start of the new school year.

The current school year finishes next Monday, 22nd July. We will be holding our Sports Day in the morning and then students will finish at 12 o'clock. Students should come in their PE kit on Monday. To help ensure the summer is a safe one, a safeguarding 'top tips' leaflet will be shared with some important messages, including around water safety on hot days.

The school will then open in September, with a staggered start for different year groups. [This link has](#) the term/holidays pattern for the year.

The details of the September start are below, and students will be arranged in the theatre by tutor groups: *Year 11, 9, 8 and 7 - TU1-5 downstairs and 6-10 upstairs; Year 10 Tu1-6 downstairs and 7-12 upstairs.*

Tuesday 3rd September

Year 7	Arrive at school by 8:20 Assembly in the theatre at 8:25 Finish school at 2:30
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Year 11	Arrive at school by 9:20 Assembly in the theatre at 9:25 Finish school at 2:30
Years 8-10	Working from home using Need to Know Books and Sparx Maths

Wednesday 4th September

Year 7	Arrive in school by 8:20 and straight to tutor groups Finish school at 2:30
Year 11	Arrive at school by 8:20 and straight to tutor groups Finish school at 2:30
Year 8	Arrive at school by 8:20 Assembly in the theatre at 8:25 Finish school at 2:30
Year 9	Arrive at school by 9:00 Assembly in the theatre at 9:05 Finish school at 2:30
Year 10	Arrive at school by 9:20 Assembly in the theatre at 9:25 Finish school at 2:30

Students must return in full school uniform, including their new ties. Our [uniform expectations](#) have not changed, and a sturdy rucksack-style school bag will be an ideal summer purchase too. We will be equipping students with new Need to Know books, but this year's ones should be kept as essential revision tools, as should all their exercise books. Years 8-10 will need their Need to Know books on the 3rd September.

We will be making a number of changes to the building over the summer. This will include moving the location of some departments and a new system for naming rooms. We will talk through all the changes with students on the first day they return. We will also have begun construction of our new library – an exciting development for next year!

One final change is that students will no longer be able to leave school by the back gate onto Crown Point North at the end of the day. Instead of this route, students will be able to follow the path at the rear of the school that leads out onto Edgerton Street. Alternatively, they will be able to leave via the front of school (as the majority of students currently do). This decision was made to improve student safety and the student feedback has been positive. We will of course have a strong staff presence along the path and you will see the team in their high viz jackets each afternoon. In the mornings, the front entrance will continue to be the only route into school, as it has been throughout this year.

I will write again before the term begins with a reminder of these key points, but it is important that you are able to prepare for them. I will also send out an updated travel plan, which will include the travel information and requests to consider our neighbours if you bring your child by car. I am also trying to persuade the bus company to include the school bus park as part of the 347 route rather than the current stop at the far side of Crown Point North. This would improve student punctuality as well as student safety, as our staff would be able to supervise them.

This is always the time of year where I must pay thanks to those staff who are moving on from Denton Community College to new challenges and opportunities. We are saying a fond farewell to a number of long-serving staff and I am sure you will join me in wishing them the very best for the future. You will also be pleased to know that we have had made a significant number of appointments in the last few months.

ACTING HEADTEACHER: MR D CUMMING

Recruitment has been a key priority and I look forward to introducing the new members of the team to you in September.

I will finish by once again thanking you for your continued support for the work we are doing here at Denton Community College. It is a privilege to be trusted by you to educate your children and a strong home-school partnership is an essential part of our improvement journey as we strive to transform the outcomes and life chances of the young people of Denton.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr D Cumming
Acting Headteacher