



13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you once again for your continued support during our recent Ofsted Monitoring Visit. As you may know, the purpose of this visit was to evaluate the progress we are making on our journey to becoming an outstanding school, particularly now we are working with Northern Education Trust (NET).

The full report will be available on the Ofsted Website, but I wanted to share some of the exceptional feedback included within it:

On the school's culture and ethos:

"The school's work to shift the culture in the school has borne fruit. Pupils' consideration for others has improved. The 'praise culture' allows pupils' achievements to be celebrated. For example, many pupils are eager to show their work at 'Proud Tuesday.' Pupils spoke empathetically about the culture day that was organised to celebrate pupils' different heritages."

It further states:

"Pupils and staff feel safe in the school. The school has successfully dealt with pupils' use of discriminatory language." It goes on to say "behaviour in lessons and around the school at social times has vastly improved. Classrooms are calm and purposeful."

On the curriculum and teaching:

"The school has ensured that the curriculum is broad and ambitious and that it clearly sets out the key knowledge that pupils need to learn. As a result, teachers are clear about what they should teach. Classroom routines are consistently well embedded. These have helped to cultivate a positive environment for learning, and pupils respond well to them."

"There are now stronger systems in place to identify pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)."

"More priority has been given to reading... Pupils in Key Stage 3 are routinely assessed in reading, and the school accurately identifies where pupils have gaps in their reading knowledge."

"The school has developed its approach for reading for 'leisure and pleasure'. At the moment, this is centred around key stage 3 although there are some plans to extend this to key stage 4."

On attendance and leadership:

"The school quite rightly identifies attendance as one of its biggest challenges. Increased capacity and clear processes have helped to improve the school's understanding of pupil absence. There has been a small improvement in attendance rates. Furthermore, the strategies implemented to improve punctuality have borne some fruit. Pupils' punctuality is improving."

"Members of the IEB have an accurate understanding of the school's weaknesses and the progress that the school is making. They have ensured that the school has prioritised the right actions."

The report also recognises the vital role of Northern Education Trust (NET):

The report highlights the significant enhancement of capacity provided by the trust, including providing the school with an executive principal, additional senior leaders, subject directors, and extensive support from other trust leads.

It further acknowledges that Denton Community College has also generated its own internal capacity by promoting and appointing several new senior leaders from within the school. It goes on to say that:

“Leaders acknowledge that much of the change that has happened in the school has been accelerated by the external support that the trust, which the school is due to join, has given. It has provided the school with processes, policies, and a well-thought-out curriculum. In addition, the school is heavily supported by personnel from the trust who are based on-site. This has strengthened leadership capacity. Staff, parents, and pupils recognise the positive changes that have come about and attribute them to the support given by the trust. Most staff are supportive of the changes that the school has made. They feel more supported than they have in the past.”

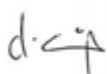
We are incredibly proud to celebrate the progress highlighted in the recent report, which aligns with another exciting milestone for Denton Community College. The validated results from last summer are now confirmed, and the exceptional NET data team has analysed the newly published national data for all schools in England.

We are thrilled to formally announce that Denton Community College is among the most improved schools in the entire country in terms of the percentage of students achieving a pass in their GCSE English and Maths exams.

This achievement reflects the dedication of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the unwavering support of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I am confident that, as we continue to work together, we will achieve even greater success for our students.

Yours faithfully,



Donald Cumming
Acting Headteacher