



FAO: Parents & Carers

RE: Half Term Update

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well at this time.

As we approach the end of this half-term, I am writing this letter to update parents and carers regarding school life and the current lockdown we are all experiencing.

I would like to begin by thanking our students for their attitude during what has been a significant disruption to their education and lives in general. Their teachers continue to comment on the engagement and effort our students demonstrate through 'Home Learning'. The recent engagement grade tracker that we implemented through Go4Schools has demonstrated that the percentage of our students who are engaging with remote learning is significantly higher than students nationally. This deserves a big well done, not only to our students, but also to our parents and carers who have promoted the importance of continued education during these very difficult times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the fantastic staff here at Denton Community College who have continued to: plan and mark work; deliver live and recorded lessons; hold form group hangouts; attend departmental, parental and agency meetings; undertake continued professional development (training), as well as supervise the vulnerable students and the children of key workers who have accessed support during this period of lockdown. In addition to this, I have been so proud of their response to my request that all our students receive a personal phone call each week to support their continued well-being. These calls are in addition to any contact made via parental phone calls, emails, hangouts and lessons. So far, we have averaged over 1290 personal phone calls a week to our students. During this lockdown, every student at Denton Community College has been spoken to weekly if possible, on a one-to-one basis by a member of my team.

During this half-term, we completed the interview process for our new Deputy Headteacher. The role was advertised nationally and we had a very strong field of candidates. It gives me great pleasure to announce that our new Deputy Headteacher is Mr J Haslam who many of you already know. Mr Haslam will be taking up his new post from **Monday 22nd February 2021**.

I would like to confirm that the Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening is taking place on **Thursday 25th February 2021**. I know Mr Haslam, Deputy Headteacher, has already distributed information regarding this event and you should have received an email. If you haven't received the information, please contact him at j.haslam@dentoncommunitycollege.

I would like to thank all our Year 11 parents, carers & students who recently took part in the DfE & Ofqual consultations regarding the assessment and awarding of GCSE grades this summer. As of yet, no details have been released regarding the outcomes of this consultation. As soon as the school does receive details regarding any assessment process and the awarding of GCSEs, we will share this information with students, parents & carers.

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

In **January 2021**, Year 9 students began the options process for 2021. This year they have received video presentations from our subject leaders and taken part in a number of activities in their Form Registration / Tutorial sessions. Students also had the opportunity to attend a virtual careers event organised by 'Positive Steps'. This enabled students to observe presentations by employers from work sectors such as the NHS and GMP then take part in a Q&A session with each presenter. Today we launch our Year 9 Options Booklet for 2021, which can be accessed [here](#). On **Monday 22nd February**, students will be given details on how to access their option forms to make their subject choices for **September 2021**. We are also intending on holding a virtual options Q&A event in **March 2021**, details of which will be shared with parents once confirmed.

We are committed to improving the lives of all the young people that we work with. In **January 2021**, our positive approach to LGBTQ+, inclusion and visibility was recognised by the Proud Trust who presented us with the Rainbow Flag Award. Whilst we don't set out to receive awards, it was a fantastic moment for all our students, staff and governors to be recognised for our approach towards something we feel is right.

Finally, there has still been no confirmation by the Government regarding students returning to school. Whilst **Monday 8th March** has been rumoured for some time, this has not been confirmed. Despite this, we are making arrangements for the eventual return of young people and have implemented an on-site lateral flow test facility. Once a date has been confirmed, we will again write to parents & carers outlining the details for the students' return. Please be reassured that whatever plans we do implement, we will do so with the health and safety of our students and staff at the forefront of any decisions we make.

I would like to wish you all a very restful and safe half term.

Yours sincerely



Greg Rule
Headteacher