

5 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to a well-deserved rest over the festive period. Please remember the term ends for students at **12.30pm on Thursday 21 December**.

The Department for Education has confirmed our excellent Year 11 GCSE results and we are very proud that all our students at Denefield performed significantly above the average for schools locally and nationally.

We are delighted with the progress our young people have made and we know that these qualifications open the doors to our students' future successes.

These outcomes for our students were because of a combination of our students' hard work, parental support, high-quality teaching, and a strong behaviour culture based on courtesy, kindness, punctuality and respect.

We have endeavoured to ensure that our inclusive school routines and high expectations for students' conduct and punctuality have been the foundation of our **Work Hard – Be Kind** philosophy. We will continue this excellent work on your children's behalf.

As part of our promotion of pride in, and respect for, our brilliant school community – we have very clear expectations for uniform and equipment at Denefield. This is to ensure that every student in our community can have safe, stimulating, and respectful environment in which to learn successfully.

To help with certainty around school uniform, I would like you to reacquaint yourself with the information below from our School Uniform policy.

Our expectations are clear on **piercings** and allow for one discreet stud in each earlobe, no facial jewellery (a clear plastic retainer in the nose is acceptable). Please do not allow your child to get a facial piercing or additional ear piercing near the end of the Christmas holiday as this will mean that the piercing cannot be removed at the start of term.

We are also clear on expectations around **nail varnish, false nails and false eyelashes**. We allow clear nail varnish - not coloured - and we do not allow acrylic or gel nails. We also do not allow false eyelashes. Please do not allow your child to apply coloured nail varnish, false nails or eyelashes, that cannot be removed at home, during the Christmas holiday, as this will mean that the varnish, nails or lashes will need to be removed for the start of term.

In addition to this, we expect our students to have natural **hair colouring**. This is important to consider if you are thinking of allowing your child to dye or braid their hair during the Christmas holiday. If you choose to allow your child to dye or braid their hair with a colour that is not a natural hair colour during the Christmas holiday, please ensure that the dye will have washed out before the end of the Christmas holiday and that you are happy for the braids to be removed before the start of term in January.

Our Uniform Policy is clear on the **trousers** that we expect students to wear. Our website

illustrates these expectations in photographic images. Trousers should be plain black to cover ankles and be suitable as business wear. **Jeans, flares, tight trousers or leggings are not allowed.**

I would also like to remind you that our Uniform Policy clearly states that we have a school jumper and that **Hoodies must not be worn to school.**

Finally, what are considered **school shoes** has become complicated by the variety of companies advertising their products as school shoes. These companies often do not consult schools on what schools have defined as a school shoe. I want to support all our families with this.

Our website clearly identifies what a school shoe looks like with photographic images, and we describe a school shoe as, **plain black with minimal decoration, firm-soled, water resistant and polishable.**

We do not accept footwear that is sports branded eg Nike (including Nike Air Force), Adidas, Reebok or other similar brands and this includes brands such as VANS, Converse and TOMS. We also do not accept canvas footwear or trainers as school shoes.

Our tutors check students' uniform and equipment each morning. We do this so that we can help each student be as prepared as possible to have an enjoyable and productive school day. We will continue to ensure that uniform and equipment standards are upheld in the lead up to Christmas.

I would also like to draw your attention to students **chewing gum on school site**. Chewing gum is not something that we allow on our school site. To maintain our excellent site and facilities, none of us want to see gum on the pavements or feel it under desks and tables. This is both unpleasant and unhygienic. So, to ensure consistency – we do not allow students to chew gum anywhere on our school site.

On our return to school, **9.30am on Monday 8 January 2024**, we will be conducting uniform and equipment checks and students who are not in the correct uniform will be sent home from school to change.

If you would like further information on our behaviour culture, routines and expectations, please follow this link to our [Uniform Policy](#) and [Behaviour Policy](#) add link

I look forward to the last few weeks of this term with our brilliant young people – and to the further success we will achieve together in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Simpson
Deputy Headteacher

