

Denbigh School

The Specialist Technology College
In Milton Keynes

Headteacher: Mrs S E Parker

Our ref: SEP/JW/Myd

20th July, 2010

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of another academic year, I am writing to remind you of the arrangements for the end of term, advising you of some amendments to the curriculum following a review undertaken earlier in the year, and also to advise you of the plans for the start of term in September.

End of Term

As previously advised, on Friday, 23rd July students will finish School at 1 p.m.

Lockers

Students in Years 7-10 who wish to retain a locker will automatically have their deposit transferred over for the next academic year, unless there is damage to the locker in which case, the deposit will not be transferred or refunded and these students will need to return their key, re-apply for a locker and pay a new deposit. Lockers will be checked over the summer holiday period and students who have damage to their lockers will be notified in September. Students in Years 11 and 13 have already been advised of the arrangements for having their deposit returned to them. Students starting Denbigh Sixth Form who wish to apply for a locker can do so at the start of term.

Jewellery/IPods etc.

Confiscated items which have not yet been collected by parents can be collected by students as usual at the end of term from Mrs. Addis (next to Headteacher's office). Students have already been made aware of the time for collecting these items - i.e. at the end of the School day – 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 22nd July.

Examination Results

A reminder that for students collecting examination results these will be available from the School as follows:

For GCE A/AS Level results: Thursday, 19th August, 2010, from 10 a.m. – 2. p.m.

For GCSE results: Tuesday, 24^h August, 2010, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Curriculum Amendments

I am writing to let you know of some amendments to the curriculum following a review undertaken earlier in the year. The changes are divided into two categories as shown below – structural and specific - and apply to Years 7 to 11.

Structural – bands and setting

You may be aware that previously we have grouped some subjects together for the purposes of setting students. For instance in Year 7 Maths, Drama, ICT and Science were grouped together so, if a student was in set 2 for Maths then they would be in set 2 for that complete group of subjects. For this academic year we have been able set most subjects independently of each other so a student would be able to be in different sets for each subject i.e. they could be in set 1 for Maths, set 2 for Drama, set 3 for ICT and set 4 for Science. The only exceptions to this are Drama and Art and Music and DBT in Years 7 to 9. We believe that this gives all students the best opportunity to be stretched and challenged in those areas of the curriculum where it is appropriate, whilst having personalised support in those areas where they are least confident.

For Key Stage 3 students the x and y band structure remains in place as in previous years.

In Key Stage 4 the x and y band structure remains in place except for in Mathematics and English – in these subjects all students will be taught at the same time, meaning 8 groups are taught together rather than two sets of 4. This will give teachers the opportunity to teach students over a narrower range of grades in a class, making it easier to support students towards achieving their target grade. It might also be necessary for students moving from Year 9 into Year 10 to change band to facilitate their option choices.

Specific

Some students in Years 10 and 11 will undertake a programme of early entry in Mathematics and English. Parents of those students involved will be contacted in due course by those Subject Leaders to explain the rationale and outline the process.

This year sees the start of the Engineering Diploma in Year 10. This course is designed to give students with an interest and flair for Engineering practical and theoretical experience of how the sector works, and a flavour of the different study and employment opportunities available. More information will be available to Year 9 parents as part of the KS4 Curriculum and Options process later in the year.

Year 9 students will commence studying a GCSE Science curriculum from September 2010, working towards achieving two or three Science GCSE qualifications by the end of year 11. Students in sets 1 and 2 will begin courses leading to separate GCSE



qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics by whilst students in sets 3 and 4 will undertake a GCSE Science course that covers the core content of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will be completed by the end of Year 9. After this time they will go on to study a further Science GCSE course during Years 10 and 11 with an opportunity to transfer to the separate Science sets at the end of Year 9 dependent upon the results achieved and the student's potential to be successful on the more demanding and intensive separate Science courses.

In addition, Year 9 students will also begin their GCSE French course, completing it at the end of Year 10 allowing opportunity for more flexibility and personalisation of the curriculum in Year 11.

If you have any questions about any of these changes or their implications then please contact Mr. I. Bacon, Deputy Headteacher, or contact the relevant Head of Faculty.

Start of the Autumn Term

Students return to School for the new academic year as follows:

- **Monday, 6th September, students in Years 7 and 12 return**
- **Tuesday, 7th September, all other Year Groups return to School**

Uniform

Students have been reminded once more during the latter part of this term of our expectations with regard to the standard of uniform, and I wish to advise you again about the importance we place in all of our students dressing as they would for work and strictly adhering to our code of dress. It is very disappointing that whilst the majority of students wear their uniform appropriately, there are still too many who fail to do so and are arriving at School dressed in items of clothing that are inappropriate and do not meet our uniform regulations. We will continue to follow up these students. From September it is essential that we have the support of all parents to ensure a high standard of uniform - thank you to all parents who are supporting us already in our efforts to ensure their son/daughters comply with our code of dress. Full details of all uniform requirements are given in the Student's Homework Diaries. The main points of the required code of dress are as follows:

- Shoes should be of a sensible design, in black with no coloured trim or stitching. Trainers or canvas shoes are not allowed.
- School trousers should be plain black in colour and not of 'jean' or 'jean type' material, or of a 'skinny' design.
- Skirts should be plain in style, knee length and black in colour.
- Black boots can be worn in extreme weather conditions only.
- Students should have an appropriate school bag that is big enough for them to carry their books and equipment - small handbags are not appropriate.
- Students choosing to wear a belt with their trousers or skirt should ensure that it is plain black in colour.
- Students may wear a plain white T-shirt (without a coloured trim) under their school shirt, although the T-shirt should not be visible. No other colours of T-shirt are allowed.
- Shirts should be tucked in and fastened up - only the top collar button can be undone.
- Ties should be worn appropriately and should at least cover the second shirt button.
- Outer garments e.g. coats, jackets etc. should be plain and dark in colour. Sweatshirts and 'hoodies' are not appropriate school wear.
- Hair items that are worn in order to keep long hair off the face should be plain, discreet and in accordance with School colours.
- Hijab head scarves should be in accordance with School uniform colours.
- Although the wearing of School jumpers has been optional for students for the last half of the Summer term due to the warmer weather, from the beginning of the Autumn term jumpers are again a compulsory part of our uniform and we therefore expect all students to be wearing their jumpers.
- No jewellery is allowed, except for the wearing of a pair of studs – one stud in each ear.

We do expect students to be punctual to all of their lessons, and they should be in School and in their classroom ready for the start of their first lesson by 8.30 a.m. each morning.

With this letter is a copy of the School's Newsletter - I hope you will enjoy reading about the many events and activities which have been taking place this term.

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming students back in September for a successful new academic year, and in the meantime hope that you all have a relaxing Summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. S.E. Parker
Headteacher

