



9<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

### **An outstanding start to the year**

It has been an outstanding start to the new academic year. Pupils have settled back into their routines quickly and their work ethic has been superb; they really have started as they mean to go on.

Year 7 have made a tremendous start too. Whilst they are still learning their way around our school site, staff have been so complimentary about their manners, diligence and aspiration to succeed. I have also been overwhelmed by the parental emails received providing feedback on new year 7's, many of whom have returned home beaming about their experiences at school in the first week. Thank you all who have taken the time to email in with this great feedback. For ongoing updates of everything going on at DEC, please check our website regularly and follow us on social media: twitter @followdectc.

Remember too that your Head of House is the key pastoral leader for your child – direct contact details are as follows:

York – Mrs B Greene: [b.greene@decschool.co.uk](mailto:b.greene@decschool.co.uk)

Durham – Mr G James: [g.james@decschool.co.uk](mailto:g.james@decschool.co.uk)

Exeter – Mr R Hanson: [r.hanson@decschool.co.uk](mailto:r.hanson@decschool.co.uk)

Please note that email enquiries usually generate a faster response than by telephone.

### **Parking Fines and Penalty Points**

As parents you will also be settling into your new, or continued school run by car doing the daily pick up and drop off. Sadly, due to several instances of both illegal and dangerous parking at the end of the school day, I have had no choice but to involve West Midlands Police who will be running several ticketing visits over the coming weeks. Senior staff will also be at the front of school to take photographic evidence of illegal/ dangerous parking – all of which will be forwarded to West Midlands Police. Support from other parents is greatly appreciated and requested. If you see illegal or dangerous parking please forward any evidence from photographs or dash-cams directly to me via [enquiry@decschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@decschool.co.uk). The children's safety is our primary concern and anything which puts them at risk simply can't and won't be allowed.

As always we encourage the use of public transport, bicycles and walking to school. Small groups of local friends are a great way of setting up a coordinated 'walk to school' plan so youngsters are not walking to school alone.



### **Homework and self-study**

Homework, self-quizzing and work outside of lessons is a key part of how pupils at DEC make such excellent progress. Tasks set by teachers in line with the homework timetable strengthen knowledge and skills learned in lesson and enable pupils to continually revise the knowledge they are developing as the term progresses. It is crucial that pupils have the right environment in which to work. If they do not have a desk and quiet space at home, please encourage your child to stay for a short time after school to use the Library and Self Study facilities we have made available to all pupils. This includes computer access for online homework. More and more children are choosing to stay at school for a short time each day to complete their homework, before going home for some well-earned rest and relaxation. If additional support is needed, we have a fully staffed Homework Club where staff are on-hand to provide guidance and additional tutoring where needed.

### **Dates for your diary**

For all upcoming events, training days and special activities that may affect your child – please review the school website regularly to stay fully up to date.

<https://www.decschool.co.uk/school-letters/>

<https://www.decschool.co.uk/news/>

Well done to all pupils for such a strong start to the new school year and to all parents/ carers for supporting your children to be so ready to start back.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Dunn  
Head Teacher

