



DARTON COLLEGE

Mr A Barnett
Executive Principal (Delta)

June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to make contact to update you on some of the changes we have made and the impact that can be seen already around the College for students and for staff.

Behaviour policy – The policy that we consulted with you on at our information evening and that was approved by the IEB is having a striking impact on the Academy. Lessons are now much more purposeful and there is less time being wasted with low level disruption. This is having a positive impact on teaching and learning and will over time lead to improved outcomes. Students comment that they now feel safe.

Split lunches/breaks – Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive. Lunches and break times are now very calm and we are able to serve students much more quickly and in an orderly manner. Litter has disappeared and it is a much cleaner environment for the students.

Mobile phones – Students have responded extremely well to not having their mobile phones in school. They are now talking to each other at lunchtimes and engaging in discussion rather than staring at a screen. These changes come at the time when the removal of mobile phones from schools has found support from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman and from the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Matt Hancock.

Support from Delta Subject Directors – Year 10, who are now entering their final year of study for GCSE exams, have already benefitted from support and lessons delivered by outstanding practitioners from across Delta Academies Trust. This includes English mock exam preparation and small group tuition in Maths. Directors are working with Darton staff to support accurate moderation of assessments and provide the College with high quality subject resources.

Nurture/SEN – I understand that parents of our nurture students may still feel anxious about some of our changes. Our Director of Student Support and Inclusion, Sarah Gill, will run a parental meeting on Monday 25th June at 5pm. There will also be a catch up meeting if you are unable to attend before we break for the summer.

Year 10 – Before we break for the summer, I would also like to run a separate meeting for the parents of students in Year 10. This will be on Tuesday 17th July. We will be providing students with equipment and revision packs to work on over the summer so that we can hit the ground running in September.

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Public Meeting – We are aware that there is public meeting being organised by the NEU Barnsley. As a Trust, Delta enjoys good relationships with National Unions and prides itself as a good employer.

It is disappointing that a post has been made on the NEU Barnsley Facebook without any conversation or approach to the College by local branch representatives. We are very happy to engage with you and have worked tirelessly over the past two weeks to answer any questions that you may have. Please do continue to get in touch with us directly if you have any queries, comments or concerns, or indeed praise for the professionalism and dedication of the staff. The letters and comments from parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive about the work we are doing with your children and the staff and I do appreciate you taking the time to pass on your support.

I do hope the vast majority of parents and carers, who have been disappointed in the past by the school's lack of action to address the poor behaviour of a very small minority of students, will make their feelings about the positive impact of the changes known to the NEU.

I would be delighted to welcome you to the College so you can see for yourselves the impact of these changes on the young people we are privileged to teach and see the commitment the whole staff share to achieving the best possible outcomes for our students. We welcome the opportunity to support Darton as part of our family of schools.

If you would like me to show you around and see the changes for yourself, then please contact mail@dartoncollege.co.uk and we will be in touch to arrange a visit.

Best Regards

Andy Barnett

**Executive Principal
DELTA Academies Trust**

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