

15 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

### **End of term update**

As we approach the end of term, I thought it would be a good time to write to you with an update on what has truly been an action-packed term for all of us here at Darton Academy. This week, you will receive our termly newsletter which will showcase many of the exciting events from the summer term. At present we have nearly 4000 followers on X (Twitter), and we share daily tweets of students enjoying activities, events and learning in school and outside the classroom. If you haven't followed us already, please do so [@DeltaDarton](https://twitter.com/DeltaDarton) and you will receive regular updates.

### **Staffing**

We have appointed six new members of staff who start in September. Mr Howell has been appointed Vice Principal, responsible for Behaviour and Standards. He joins us as an experienced Vice Principal from Don Valley Academy - which is a high performing Delta Academy and has worked for Delta since 2019. Mr Morse joins us as a history teacher. He is a keen historian who is excited to run many new after school history clubs. Miss Hall and Mrs Wilson are joining our science department as a lead teacher and teacher of science respectively. Mr Darling has joined us as a design technology teacher. Finally, we have Mr Cox joining us as an English teacher. We look forward to working with all our new starters in September.

On Thursday, we say goodbye to Mrs Boyd who has worked at Darton for an amazing 30 years and is retiring. She has been a highly valued member of the SEND team as LSA manager, and she will be missed. We also say farewell to Mr Carmody who is leaving us to work in a specialist school for students with SEND. Mr Carmody has worked at Darton for six years and his ability to form great working relationships with students and parents has always been appreciated. Mrs Race and Mrs Mitchell will be leaving the English department, Mr Eames and Mr Eccles are leaving our science department all to work at new schools. Thank you to all our leavers for their commitment to Darton Academy and we wish you good luck for the future!

### **Parent and carer forum**

We held our first parent and carer forum in June, and we have already calendared some dates for our next meetings. We discussed several issues which the forum felt are important to parents, more importantly came up with some very exciting solutions. I will share more information about our plans and ideas in September after our next meeting. The first item on my agenda is to work on the website over the summer, so that it is even more accessible to parents and carers.

### **Patterdale outdoor centre**

You may have heard about our new Delta outdoor centre in Patterdale near Ullswater in the Lake District. The centre was a YHA youth hostel and sleeps up to 87 people. Delta bought the centre and plan to spend over £1.5m refurbishing the estate. There will be water sports such as rafting and kayaking, hiring of boats and bikes, rock climbing and mountaineering, sailing and windsurfing.

I visited Patterdale last week and it is a very special place and gives students even more opportunities to have life-changing experiences. I have provisionally booked a 40-student visit for October and will share more details nearer the time.



### End of year reports

You have received your child's end of year report today and I would like to give you some useful information about our trust reporting system and how to interpret your child's results. In Years 7-9 the report includes a percentage result for the summer assessments which students sat in English, maths, science, history, geography, computer science and French or Spanish. We are currently collating these results as a trust and then we will be able to analyse this information using trackers so that we can identify students who need further intervention in the Autumn term to help them make more progress.

In Year 10, students have been given a predicted grade for the subjects that they are studying, and this is colour coded to show you whether they are working to their potential compared to similar students nationally or whether more improvements are required. The targets set are very ambitious so if the colour is yellow, please just monitor this rather than worrying too much about it. Parents of Year 10 students will also be sent the result slip which was given out in results assembly last week. This also includes the actual grade your child achieved in their Year 10 trial examinations.

There are some really great results, and I am sure you will want to discuss your child's performance with them in detail. The most important area for students and parents to look at most carefully is the effort grade as this is a key indicator of how students are performing. We all have different strengths and talents, so may perform differently across a wide range of subjects, and we all have different starting points so students should not compare their percentage results to those of their friends as they may be of completely different abilities. However, the effort score tells you whether each teacher is satisfied that a student is working to the best of their ability. A report full of

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## ...Changing lives

“Good” scores is what students should aim for, and if it has a healthy number of “Outstanding” scores then that is really worth celebrating!

If you think there are any errors in the report, please contact your child's learning manager in the first instance. If the error is specific to one subject, then please contact the teacher directly. You can do this by emailing [info@dartonacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@dartonacademy.org.uk) and marking your email for the attention of that teacher.

### Results day

Darton Academy will be open to Year 11 students on Thursday 22 August 2024 from 9.00 – 10.00am for the collection of results. A letter has been sent to all Year 11 parents and carers explaining how to nominate someone to collect results or how to receive results via email. We wish everyone the best of luck and I am excited to see how well our class of 2024 has performed. I am sure they will make everyone very proud.

### September opening

We finish for the summer break on Thursday 18 July at 2.30pm and reopen to students in Year 7 and Year 11 only, on Tuesday 3 September. All year groups must attend school on Wednesday 4 September from 8.20am.

I would like to thank you for the support that you have given me this year. It is a privilege to be the principal of Darton Academy and to be able to make a difference to the lives of young people by leading such an amazing school. I hope you have a restful and safe summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Spencer', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Spencer

Principal