



Dear Parents,

As you probably already know, after more than 8 years as headteacher at Denton Community College, Nick Condliffe announced recently that he would be stepping down as headteacher this Easter, and retiring in the summer. While we appreciate Nick feels the time has come to think about the next stage in his life, the governors are pleased that he has agreed to an arrangement under which he will be working with us on a part-time basis during the coming term, continuing his teaching duties and supporting Greg Rule, who will take over headteacher responsibilities at the start of the summer term.

Staff and governors alike are extremely grateful to Nick for the long and dedicated service he has given to Denton Community College. Under his leadership, pursuing a vision of excellence that owes much to his personal commitment to ensure that high quality educational experiences are available to all, the College has developed from what were quite difficult beginnings, housed in rather worn-out accommodation on two separate sites, into the thriving educational community it is today. Under his guidance we have seen the College develop into an exciting and challenging environment where staff and students learn together and respect one another, while the good behaviour of our students has regularly been commented on by visitors to the College. Nick's wise counsel and determination to ensure that Denton offers the best possible educational opportunities to its young people have been at the heart of the College's development, and his commitment has never wavered despite numerous challenges.

Life has not always been easy; those close to the College will understand some of the frustrations stemming, for example, from PFI funding, external management of the building and very rapid increases in student numbers at a time when education budgets have become increasingly tight. Despite these difficulties, under Nick's leadership the College achieved a ranking of 'Good' in the last Ofsted inspection, and continues to offer that mixture of challenge and support which is vital if the young people of Denton are to realise their potential and progress confidently beyond school into an increasingly competitive world. This is the legacy Nick leaves us, and we must ensure that it is not squandered.

Looking to the future, the Governing Body have invited the Deputy Headteacher, Greg Rule, to take up the reins and guide Denton through the next stage of its development. After advertising the post and looking carefully at the available options, we have concluded that there is no stronger candidate. We know that, as he takes up this challenge, Greg enjoys the full confidence of staff and governors; we hope that parents too will continue to support the purposes and processes of the College during what will inevitably be a period of transition.

Finally, we hope you will join the governors in formally thanking Nick Condliffe for his huge contribution to the creation of Denton Community College, and in wishing him a long and happy retirement. The governors wish to put on record their appreciation of the calm, selfless leadership Nick has provided during the first crucial years of the College's growth. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Greg Rule and wish him well, as he steps up to guide the College through the next stage of its development.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel West', is positioned above the typed name.

Professor Mel West
Chair of Governors