Dereham Neatherd High School
Norwich Road, Dereham, Norfolk. NR20 3AX
Headteacher: Jaime Mallett

office@neatherd.org
+44 (0)1362 697981
neatherd.org

8th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Detentions process: a reminder

Detentions are an essential part of our behaviour system, designed to address issues promptly and support pupils in making positive changes. However, if a pupil fails to attend their scheduled detention, it undermines the effectiveness of our expectations and the smooth running of the school.

If a pupil fails to attend a detention and they have a genuine reason (accepted by the school), then the original detention is re-scheduled.

However, if a pupil fails to attend their detention without an acceptable reason (or fails it due to poor behaviour), the escalation process is as follows:

Teacher detention → Department detention (lunchtime) → SLT detention (after school) → Fixed-term suspension

Pastoral detention → SLT detention (after school) → Fixed-term suspension

Community time detention (lunchtime) → week of community time detention → Fixed-term suspension

Please note that for more serious behaviour, a pupil may be placed straight into a higher-level detention or fixed-term suspension.

Our aim is always to support pupils in learning from their choices and to maintain high standards that benefit the whole school community. We believe this measure will help reinforce the importance of following school expectations and ensure that detentions are taken seriously. Please be assured that suspension from school is always a last resort.

If your child is unable to attend a detention due to a genuine and unavoidable reason, please contact the school as soon as possible so we can make alternative arrangements.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to maintain a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment for all pupils.

Yours faithfully,

Ms E Webb
Deputy Headteacher: Pupil support, behaviour and attendance

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