



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



10 January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of the Pathways process which will be taking place over the course of this half-term. This is an exciting period in your child's school career where they will have an opportunity to make decisions about some of the courses that they will follow over the next two years, which will ultimately shape their future pathway through education and into the world of work. You will no doubt be aware that all students have to remain in some form of education, training, or employment with training until they are 18 years old. It is therefore essential that this decision making process is taken very seriously and we will endeavour to provide you, as parents, with all of the necessary information to help your child make an informed decision.

The tutor programme and assembly rota for the start of this term has been carefully designed to give all Year 9 students a wealth of information about the courses on offer. In addition to this all students will be interviewed individually by a member of the Senior Leadership team between **15 - 19 January**, so that they can be given individual advice and guidance. During this interview students will be given their Pathways form to bring home to discuss with you.

On **Thursday 15 February** there will be a Pathways Evening where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the actual process and gain specific information about each course. Your child's personal tutor will also be there and you will have the opportunity to speak to them about the suitability of certain subjects. At this evening you will also be able to pick up the latest copy of our Pathways Booklet which outlines all the courses on offer in Key Stage 4 and the assessment criteria for those courses. For a minority of students, their programme of study may be further personalised and specialist staff from the Inclusion and Intervention department will be able to offer advice on these opportunities. There will be presentations throughout the evening and we really encourage both you and your child to come along.

The Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on **Thursday 1 March** from 4-7pm. This will give you the chance to discuss your child's progress with individual teachers before your child finalises their choices for Years 10 into 11 and beyond. Your child's Pathway form should be completed and then returned to **Miss Wharton** by **Friday 2 March**. It is essential that this is returned on time as this will allow us to begin allocating students to courses. You will then receive a letter of confirmation which will outline the Pathway choices that your child has been allocated.

As you can appreciate from all of the above information this is a key time in your child's education and as a school we are here to support the process in every way possible. As ever, Miss Wharton, Achievement Leader for Year 9, can be contacted by phone or email (g.wharton@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk) to answer any queries you may have.

I look forward to seeing you on both the Pathways and Parents' Evening.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Huntington
Principal

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