



# HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

This week sees the end of another academic year and the start of our summer break. The last 12 weeks are not quite how we imagined our summer term to be. However, the majority of our students have risen to the challenges of home schooling and continued to work hard, adapting quickly to a new way of learning, showing the resilience we have so often talked about and ultimately producing work of a high quality.

As an Achievement Team we could not be prouder of our students. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your support during these unprecedented times, not only for us as an Achievement Team and Heanor Gate as a school, but most importantly for your child in helping to continue their education at home. We fully recognise this is no easy task as a parent, often juggling home and work commitments, and we thank you for this.

Please can I request that you contact the office should you be planning on dropping off or collecting more than one child where they start/finish at different times. Your child's Achievement Leader will arrange somewhere for them to wait which ensures that they are not mixing with other year group bubbles. Please email: [contact@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:contact@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk) or call if you are unable to do this (contact number below).

Can I also make you aware that the English Department is launching the “Summer Read-A-Long” starting on Monday 20 July. This is our approach to recently published research which shows that when secondary school-aged students have two novels read to them back-to-back for 20 minutes per day, their literacy levels are improved by 9 months. There is more information which can be found about this by clicking this <http://www.heanorgate.org.uk/index.php/summer-read-a-long> and on your child's Google Classroom account.

Before we wish you all a peaceful and safe summer break, we wanted to give you the answers to some common questions that our students may have so that you can share these with them prior to September.

What do the September opening plans mean for our year group bubble?

- **Who is in our bubble?** Our bubble will made up solely of students from our year group (Year 11)
- **Where is our bubble based and where do we line up (outside of block)?** We will be based in J block and we will be lining up outside between J and S block (as we did in Year 8 when we were based in J block)
- **What time does our day start and finish?** For year 11 they will be expected on site and lining up at 8.40am and the school day will end at 3.05pm. Students will enter the site via the gates by the sixth form centre and leave via the usual school gates. This is to facilitate a staggered entry and exit. We will have slightly longer in tutor time with lessons starting at 9.10am. The majority of lessons will be taking place in J block. Specialist lessons where appropriate will be in specialist rooms as before.

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- **What time is our break and lunch time?** Break time for Year 11 students will be at 11.10am-11.25am. Lunch will be from 1.25pm-1.55pm.
- **Where is our break and lunch time?** Both break and lunch will be in the hall as usual. Please be aware that social spaces will be limited to the hall and the canopy areas under the current conditions. All other areas will be out of bounds until restrictions are removed further.
- **What can I eat at school?** I have attached the new school menu with price lists. Students who wish to bring in their own food and drink are welcome to do so as usual
- **When and where can I go to the toilet?** Each year group has been allocated their own toilets. Toilets for Year 11 will be in K block. Please note that these will be the only toilets open to them during the school day. As we have done during the phased return, students will only be able to use the toilets during lesson time. However we must remember that toilets are where most germs are passed on and therefore unnecessary use of toilets is not advised.
- **When/where can I go if I need help if I need it?** I'm sure some of our students will be anxious about returning to school but I'd like to reassure them that everything possible has been put into place to keep them safe and their tutors and achievement leaders will be there to support them and provide any help they may need, just as we have always done. Tutors will be available at the beginning of the day as usual but access will be more limited during the school day. Both of us will be available as usual before and after school in the J block office and also at break and lunch time either in the hall or in J block.
- **I normally catch the bus; will this service be affected?** Lifford have yet to confirm their capacity and procedures for September. We would suggest that you make alternative arrangements for the first day of school.

The expectations in terms of dress and conduct are unchanged from last year and should be fully adhered to. We also expect that all students are fully prepared and ready to learn with a full set of personal equipment. This is particularly important from September when we will be more limited in terms of the equipment we can lend out. Given the disruption to learning that has occurred since March it will be absolutely imperative that school attendance is kept as high as possible to maximise the outcomes for our year next summer. Please help us to achieve this by encouraging and insisting that your child attends every day.

Please ensure that you all get a good rest over the coming weeks and prepare for this next vital year. Try to ensure that your child has managed to get on top of the work set during the school closure period to give themselves the best preparation and opportunities for next year. It has been a real pleasure working with them and you through this year. We have been incredibly proud of the way that so many of our young people have managed to accept and adapt to the new way of learning over the last 14 weeks. Many of them have shown real resilience and independence which will only improve their chances of success next year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain these high standards.

Have a safe and relaxing summer.

Yours sincerely

**Matt Tyler & Nicola Wainwright**

**Year 10 Achievement Team**