



July 2020

HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



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 them. 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 or call if you are unable to do this (contact number below).

Can I also make you aware that the English Department are 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 [link](#) 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** bubble?

- **Who is in our bubble?** Our bubble will consist solely of Year 9 students.
- **Where is our bubble based and where do we line up (outside of block)?** We will be based in D Block on the middle and top floor. We will line up in the morning at 8:50am between D Block and F Block where tutors will be waiting for your children. We will enter D Block via the staircase doorway.
- **What time does our day start and finish?** Our day will begin at 8:50am and students will enter through the first gate/ramp towards the Achievement Centre (T Block). All of our lessons will be taught in D Block and we will finish school at 2:45pm.

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- **What time and where is our break and lunch time?** Year 9 break time will be at 11:10am and lunch time at 1:25pm, both in the New Gym.
- **What can I eat at school?** There will be a limited canteen service, I have attached the new school menu with prices, however students can continue to bring their own food if they choose to do so.
- **When and where can I go to the toilet?** Each bubble has been allocated their own toilets, ours are those at the bottom of D Block and can only be used during lesson time not at break and lunch as we have asked students to do in the past. 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?** 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.
- **I normally catch the bus; will this service be affected?** Littles have yet to confirm their capacity and procedures for September. We would suggest that you make alternative arrangements for the first day of school.

Please refer to the Standards and Expectations letter for full details of the September opening plans
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vl_PSTI9zhRnnvzaJHsoVQLnwsD4vWd1eTHpnx2q_OI/edit?usp=sharing

Our uniform and jewellery policy should still be adhered to and we thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain these high standards.

Have a safe and relaxing summer

Yours sincerely

Louise Boyles Nathan Stone
Year 8 Achievement Team