



# HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



23 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you today after a very long, tiring and challenging half term; one like no other in my tenure. When we set out our plans to welcome all children back into school we had no idea how long restrictions would last, or how our systems would fare in terms of supporting children to get back to some kind of normal regarding their education. I have to say, I have been blown away by the efforts of the whole school community in making these past 8 weeks such a success, on many levels.

I have personally congratulated all students this afternoon on their efforts. The way that the vast majority of students have followed the systems and protocols has made me immensely proud. Attendance last week sat at 96.4% which is better than the same point last year and eclipses the current national average attendance for secondary schools, which sits around 87%. Please pass on my sincere gratitude to your children.

I would also like to thank you as parents and carers for the support you have shown the school throughout his pandemic. Your communication around any absence or potential Covid cases has been first class and has enabled us to manage situations really efficiently.

Finally I would like to publicly pay huge tribute to the staff body within school, who have been truly exceptional. The attendance, commitment, resilience and professionalism of staff has been outstanding and the collegiate spirit shown for each other, the students and the wider community is a true testament to the #TeamHeanor spirit that we have worked so hard on over recent years.

In September, the press were quick to look to the community as a 'Covid Hotspot', yet the fact that Amber Valley is currently still sat at Tier 1 restrictions is testament to the collective effort of us all in following guidelines and restrictions. As we approach a school holiday, with neighbouring areas under different tiers of restrictions, I urge you all to continue to work together to keep our community safe.

You will shortly receive a separate piece of correspondence which I hope everyone in the local community will support.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy half term.

Yours sincerely

**Mr S Huntington**  
Executive Principal

**Telephone:** 01773 716396

**Fax:** 01773 765814

**Website:** [www.heanorgate.org.uk](http://www.heanorgate.org.uk)

**Email:** [mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Kirkley Drive, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7RA