



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 Parents/Carers

I write to you today following my anger and dismay at the recent news from the House of Commons. In the same week, we have seen MPs receive a substantial pay increase and then vote to NOT allow free school meals for children over the Christmas holidays. I cannot comprehend how the people of authority and power, and who set the tone for us as a nation, see this as acceptable at any time but least of all in the current predicament in which we find ourselves. Despite this being a national issue and something that we as a school cannot fix, we also cannot sit back and do nothing.

Any holiday would be an issue, but Christmas is the one holiday time that is synonymous with children and the joy it can bring to young people. For many families there won't be 'extra money' to make it a special time and making sure there is food on the table is a real challenge that should not be underestimated. As such I feel compelled to do something to support our most disadvantaged and vulnerable children over the forthcoming festive period.

Consequently we will launch 'The Heanor Gate Christmas Hamper' appeal with the hope that we can provide every one of those families with a small box of 'Christmas luxuries' that may be unaffordable otherwise.

We will start with ourselves as a school, and I have today asked staff to donate 1% of their November salary. We will also commit all of the funds from any Christmas jumper day or 'charitable' events we run throughout November/December. As a school we have donated towards many charities and good causes over the years but this year we will support our own children, families and community.

This pandemic has affected all sorts of people in different ways with many people losing jobs, being furloughed and businesses suffering or even closing. We do not want anyone to give anything that they cannot afford to and we are fully empathetic around lots of people struggling to make ends meet right now. However, for those of us who may not have been affected by this in the same way and can contribute, we would ask you to do so in whatever capacity you can. I am also asking you to spread the word of this to other people and businesses who may be able to offer something to the appeal. Every element of support is truly valued.

The appeal will start in earnest on the return to school in November after half term. It will include donating items, supporting collection/delivery and any marketing ideas as well as monetary contributions. We will produce a list of luxury items that we would like to collect such as mince pies, After Eights, Quality Street sweets and such that are often staples of Christmas time for many of us. Further details and more information will be communicated in due course.

Heanor Gate Science College is more than just a school and we desperately want to ensure that no family has a miserable Christmas. We don't have magic wands and we can't rectify every situation but we hope that the collective spirit of all of us and the ability of #TeamHeanor can really shine through and put a small smile on peoples' faces in these terribly difficult times.

Please get in touch with my PA if you feel that you can support in any way greater than an individual contribution.

Yours sincerely

Mr Huntington
Executive Principal

Telephone: 01773 716396
Fax: 01773 765814
Website: www.heanorgate.org.uk
Email: mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

Kirkley Drive, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7RA