



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you on the final day of a unique, exhausting and yet humbling term.

I want to start by thanking every member of the school community for the huge collective effort we have shown in supporting the community and ensuring our school has remained open for our young people. Since September we have seen 42 students test positive with COVID-19, 106 students with symptoms test negative, 387 students isolate due to potential contact and 11 staff test positive. Despite all of that, we have never closed a year group, never closed our doors and we have largely tried to operate as close to normal as physically possible.

The students' efforts have been fantastic and their mature response to evolving COVID safety measures has been really pleasing. Years 11 and 13 have sat formal mocks which will be invaluable if the government's stance on examinations change, we made contact with 95% of Year 11 parents in our first attempt of a remote parents' evening and we have managed to secure average daily attendance well above the national average.

Staff have been heroic in their efforts; moving around the site on an hourly basis, adapting their teaching styles and managing to ensure the quality of provision for students isolating was superb, especially the changing daily toll of students impacted by COVID. I am incredibly proud to have seen the quality of teaching and learning remain at the high standards we set in 'normal times'. Their resilience and commitment is something that should never be taken for granted.

Whilst in the midst of all of this lack of certainty we still have never forgotten to be more than just educators, including our Christmas hamper appeal and free festive lunch to the whole school. Today we will also donate all proceeds from our Christmas Jumper Day to the local charity Framework supporting the 'homeless to home', showing that the spirit of kindness and care runs right through this school.

As we approach the New Year the government has announced the proposal for mass testing in schools and a potential later start in January. As has become increasingly the norm, guidance around this is still unclear and when we know more I will ensure the plans around this are fully communicated.

On behalf of everyone at school I wish you all a safe and pleasant Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Steve and all at #teamheanor

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