



# HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



8 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a restful break. Hopefully by now you will have received and had chance to read the whole school letter from Mr Huntington regarding the remote provision for students moving forward. I wanted to write to you to clarify this from a Year 11 perspective and also to add a few year specific messages.

Year 11 have benefitted this week from all live lessons and it has been really pleasing to see the numbers joining and engaging in these lessons. As we begin to move to live lessons for other year groups this provision is going to change to a more blended approach to allow capacity across the entire school. As such from Monday 11 January Year 11 provision will be as follows:

- All Year 11 students will receive a minimum of 60% 'live' teaching in every subject via Google Meets. This will equate to a minimum of 15 hours 'live' teaching per week, all other lessons will be pre-recorded/directed tasks and will be posted on Google Classroom. It is really important that all students access this work and submit completed work on Google Classroom to ensure they do not fall behind during this difficult time. We will be following up and challenging where it appears that this is not being done.
- All students will receive a virtual weekly assembly on a Monday which will be posted 8.40-9.10am. Students will need to log on and watch this before beginning their learning for the day.
- All students will be offered a weekly drop-in tutor session to stay connected and discuss any issues which may arise through remote learning. These tutor meetings will take place as follows:

11GVK	Fridays
11LG	Tuesdays
11LVU	Tuesdays
11MAW	Tuesdays
11RAA	Wednesdays
11RB	Wednesdays
11SS	Tuesdays
11TJ	Tuesdays

- In addition to these weekly drop in sessions there will be tutor time work posted onto the Year 11 year group Google Classroom (code 7ziksyf). These will be based around wellbeing, SMSC and careers as well as some additional English and maths if they feel they need it.
- The live lessons should be on at the same time each week, with this information being communicated via Google Classroom. Please take some time to sit with your child and use the blank timetable found via the link below to write out a schedule for when they will have live lessons and when the lesson will be pre-recorded. This will help ensure they are on line at the right times and don't miss the live provision. The blank timetable can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EYnufJRK4sALb8nZ3v-5ayh12UENxQsy/view?usp=sharing>

**Telephone:** 01773 716396

**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

If your child normally receives free school meals then the voucher scheme has to be set up with vouchers sent out to each family for use in your chosen supermarket. If there are any issues with this or you have not received your vouchers (please check your emails and email spam) please get in touch with reception in school who will be able to assist you.

If for any reason you have issues regarding access to devices then please get in touch with myself or Mrs Wainwright and we will try to help as much as possible.

I know that the decision by the government to cancel GCSE exams this year has hit many students hard, my own daughter included. They have worked incredibly hard with these exams as a focus and to have these removed at this time may leave some students unsure about how to proceed. It is vital that they continue to access and engage with their education over these coming months to ensure they have the best possible outcomes for their futures. As the government has currently provided no further clarity as to how GCSE results will be awarded nor what evidence we, as a school, may need to provide to support those grade decisions, it is crucial that all our students maintain the focus and efforts to produce the highest quality work to aid our decisions.

At the same time over the coming weeks there needs to be a balance between their school work and personal well-being. Lockdown restrictions must be adhered to, but students should be encouraged to follow as healthy a lifestyle as possible. A good routine with plenty of rest, exercise and good nutrition will all contribute to positive well-being, but if for any reason they are struggling they should access the support available in school via their tutor and ourselves.

In relation to Safeguarding, if any concerns arise with regards to a child's well-being, physical and/or mental health please email [safeguarding@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk). If it is an urgent concern or out of school hours please contact:

Call Derbyshire (Derbyshire County Council Social Services) on 01629533190

First Contact (Derby City Council Social Services) on 01332 641172

This is not the start to 2021 we wished for, nor the last 6 months of Year 11's preparation before their exams in the summer that I had wanted or anticipated. The changing situation is very difficult for everyone and we certainly do not underestimate the complexities of family life whilst everyone is working from home and in the same house 24/7. We will do everything we can to ensure that the school provision and support makes it as painless as possible to home-school and please do get in touch if there are any issues you are facing. We have had a good start and I have been incredibly proud of the way students in our year have adapted and engaged this week. It is now time to stay strong, resilient and positive and ensure we continue to engage throughout the time we are away from school and support each other as much as we can. Stay well, stay safe and stay positive.

Yours sincerely



**Matt Tyler**  
Year 11 Achievement Leader