



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 Year 8 Parent/Carer

I do hope that you and your families are safe and well and that you have managed to enjoy the Christmas break. Thank you so much for the support you have shown for the school and your child so far this term in light of the move to online education. As you are aware, this is not the start back to school that we expected, but students and staff have already risen to the challenge and had a successful first week of online learning.

You will have today received a letter from Mr Huntington detailing the plans for the school as a whole from Monday 11 January onwards. I would like to take this opportunity to explain what this will mean for the students who are in Year 8 and what they can expect from the blended learning experience that is being provided.

On a weekly basis, every Year 8 student will have a combination of live lessons, recorded lessons and lessons where work is set for them to complete independently. Each student will receive a minimum of one lesson of live teaching, accessible via the Google Meets platform, from each faculty area every week. Students can find out which of their lessons will be live by logging onto their Google Classroom. All Google Meet codes for Year 8 will follow the same format “8 +initials of the teacher”. For example “8KP”. For any lessons that are not taught live, there will be pre-recorded lessons or tasks set on Google Classroom for the students to complete. It is imperative that students stick to their timetabled lessons and ensure that they follow the lessons in the correct sequence. I have added a link below to a blank timetable that you can print out or make a copy of to plan for the week ahead.

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

In order to be successful in their approach to learning, it is vital that the students are making and sticking to a routine. This not only includes a routine for the work that they will be doing on a daily basis, but also ensuring that they are eating right, sleeping well, staying hydrated and ensuring that they are getting some form of exercise during the day. Routines for all children are absolutely essential. As parents I urge you to ensure that your child is up, awake and ready to learn for 8.45am. They then need to carefully check Google Classroom for their timetabled lessons that day to establish what work they need to complete and which live lessons they need to attend.

For clarity, all students will follow the general school timetable and must complete work or attend a Google Meet in accordance to what lesson they would normally have if they were in school.

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An example of a typical day:

8.50am	Tutor time - online assembly (if it's a Monday)
9.10am	Period 1 - English live Google Meet
10.10am	Period 2 - work set for PE
11.10am	Break
11.25am	Period 3 - work set for science
12.25pm	Period 4 - maths live Google Meet
13.25pm	Lunch
13.55pm	Period 5 - pre-recorded languages lesson to watch and work to complete
2.55pm	School finishes for the day

In addition to learning activities, the achievement team will also continue to support students pastorally by offering a number of different opportunities as detailed below:

- **A weekly drop in tutor session** - Year 8 tutors will be offering a *compulsory* 20 minute drop in via Google Meet once per week where students can check in with their tutor.
- **Weekly assembly** - delivered on Monday mornings to help students get up and get the week started successfully. It is *compulsory* that all students access this by 9.10am.
- **Health and wellbeing** - students can access support on their Year 8 Google Classroom for mental health and well-being links and information, alongside contacting their tutor or the achievement team for support.
- **Weekly challenges** - we appreciate that students will complete work at different speeds and if they find they want some additional activities some will be placed on the Year 8 Google Classroom for them.

Tutor support sessions will be as follows:

Tuesday	08.50-9.10	CVG
Wednesday	08.50-9.10	HDA, SEL, RJW, CJJ, LRH
Thursday	08.50-9.10	JOC
Friday	08.50-9.10	JCR

The Google Meet code will be their year followed by the tutor initials, for example 8JOC

SEND

For all SEND students there will be 3 daily drop in sessions, these are non-compulsory but will support your child's learning and will be led by members of the inclusion and intervention team. You will have been emailed with the codes to access these sessions, but if you have any questions, please contact your child's Key Worker.

They will run at the following times each day:

8.40am-9.10am Maths

1.25pm-1.55pm English

2.55pm-3.25pm Science

Safeguarding

In relation to safeguarding, if any concerns arise regarding a child's well-being, physical and/or mental health please email 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 01629 533190

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

ICT Support

For students who are struggling to access Google Classroom or Google Meets, please see the support videos below:

Google Classroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsZBHGx1iw4>

Google Meets: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fPJpm-5Cco>

After this, if you are having any technical issues accessing material then you can log any questions or concerns with the ICT technical team using this email address: IThelpdesk@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

Lastly, I want to thank you for your continued support as parents/carers in helping the school and community to help reduce the spread of the virus and continue to remain safe and socially distanced. Despite students not being in school, it is important that we still capture details of any positive cases amongst our student population. Therefore, can I please ask that if your child tests positive for COVID-19 that you keep us informed.

If there is any further information or support needed please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Kayleigh Pearse

Achievement Leader Y8

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<http://www.heanorgate.org.uk>