



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



26 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking all of our parents and carers for your ongoing support. Last month we wrote to you regarding our plans for the ‘Step Up, not Catch Up’ initiative which will commence on Monday 7 June. As this date draws closer, I wanted to take the opportunity to outline what this will look like for Year 7 students moving into Year 8.

What are the key changes/priorities for Year 8?

Year 8 will see students accessing more subject-specific facilities across the school site which I hope will create a real ‘buzz for learning’. In addition, later in Year 8, students begin to make the first of their subject choices within the Humanities and Design, Technology and Visual Arts (DTVA) faculties. Through the Year 8 Graduation Programme students will show that they have developed a variety of attributes and skills, which will be fundamental to their personal development, before moving on with their academic life at Heanor Gate Science College.

Key Standards and Expectations

Expectations will be the same as they have been previously for students. We ask that our students are; ready, respectful and responsible at school.

Ready

- Students need to be fully equipped for the school day (pen, pencil, ruler, scientific calculator and a reading book).
- Students need to ensure that they are in correct school uniform - we have produced new guidance on this which can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u-tJg93H74zLzsOKHqr_r_V5tTm-OYZo/view?usp=sharing. I wish to highlight that school skirts must be just above the knee and not a stretchy material, shirts need to be tucked in and no extreme haircuts/un-natural colours.

Respectful

- Students should be kind and courteous to their peers and staff members creating a ‘culture of kindness’ within the school.
- Students should be respectful of others' learning and take ownership over their own, showing engagement in the classroom.

Responsible

- Students should ensure they complete their work to the best of their ability and ensure they conduct themselves appropriately around the school site.
- Students should ensure, wherever possible, that they have good attendance (above 97%), particularly as a large amount of time has been spent learning away from the classroom. Whilst the majority of students have worked extremely hard during this time it does not beat the value of face to face teaching and support in a classroom and we need to ensure we take advantage of this moving forward. Please help us to achieve this by encouraging and insisting that your child attends every day.

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Tutor Time Programme

Students have access to their own personal tutor who they will see every morning during tutor time. During this time students will have access to further support and opportunities such as; bespoke interventions, sessions on personal development to help students to develop socially and emotionally and to become responsible citizens, as well as receiving careers advice.

Extra-Curricular and Rewards

We have already begun to see the return of many clubs such as football, netball, and drama. As we continue to move forward with the government's road map we will continue to see the reopening of more and more venues. This will allow us to offer more enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom such as school trips and fixtures in the 2021/22 academic year.

We will continue to reward students for good attendance/punctuality and the progress they are making at school, regularly celebrating their success. We will do this through awarding achievement points to students, attendance recognition letters and e-postcards, amongst other things.

COVID-19 Reminders

As we move forward with the new rules of the government roadmap it is also important that we proceed with caution and the moral obligation to look after one another as a community. Therefore, we will still be asking students to continue to wear masks in confined spaces; however, if students wish to, it is acceptable to remove them in the classroom and at lunchtime.

We continue to encourage social distancing and students have done a fantastic job completing their lateral flows twice per week as well as regularly hand sanitizing, which we will continue to do. I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support with this.

What time does our day start and finish?

The school day for Year 8 students will begin at 8.50am and finish at 2.55pm. The students should enter the school through the double gates by Sixth Form (top of the drive) and make their way around to the gym stairs to the side of E block to line up. Students are not permitted on school grounds any more than five minutes before this time to ensure that they remain in their bubbles and do not come into contact with other year groups. Year 8 students will leave the school site via the same Sixth Form gates at their allotted time.

What time is our break and lunch time?

Break time for Year 8 students will be from 10.10-10.25am and lunch will be from 12.25-12.55pm, both taking place in the New Gym.

Who should I contact if I have a question?

For general queries regarding student progress across the curriculum please contact me, Mrs McLeod or your child's personal tutor. If you have questions regarding particular subjects then please get in touch with the subject teacher.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain these high standards.

Yours sincerely



Miss L Hulland
Y7 Achievement Leader