



# 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

We are once again reaching the end of yet another half term and the last for your children as year 8 students. I do hope that you are looking forward to the prospect of the 'Step Up' programme and the positive impact that this will have on their experience at Heanor Gate. I would like to share with you some of the changes that this will entail as we 'Step up' into Year 9.

As you will be aware from the communication that you have already received, this programme will begin after the half term holiday with the Year 8 students becoming Year 9s from Monday 7 June. This is to support their development over the final half term to become 'GCSE ready'. This will require a level of commitment from them that I know that they can rise to and we will be asking them to strive to achieve the very best through excellent effort and behaviour, both inside and outside of school. The students have already confirmed the first of their GCSE choices during the options process and this year will form the basis of their decisions for the rest of their courses which will help to determine their future Pathway. It is important that we can work together as a team to help them to raise their aspirations and set up good learning habits that will allow them to succeed.

As an achievement team we will be here to support the students with both their wellbeing and their academic studies as the two go hand in hand. We will monitor their attainment throughout the year and provide opportunities for intervention sessions if needed. Alongside this we will be providing the students with the opportunity, during our tutor time sessions, to develop a wide range of skills and to cover a broad spectrum of topics via assemblies, subject based skills sessions, careers as part of our personal development programme. The tutor time sessions form a sixth learning period in the day and, as such, students should arrive at these sessions with all the necessary equipment and on time. Punctuality, attendance and being ready to learn are key indicators of students who will achieve well at GCSE level.

As part of the Year 9 step up we will also be looking to develop the leadership skills of some of our students through the Year 9 Prefect Programme. This will be launched in September and applications will need to be made in writing. I think you will agree that this is an exciting opportunity for the students.

## Key Changes for Year 9

- Start & Finish Times – 8:50am to 2:45pm
- Break & Lunch times – 11:10am and 1:25pm

We are also able to facilitate the reintroduction of afterschool clubs within the next half term which will allow the students to become well rounded members of the school community. We will also be looking at opportunities for trips and events to be reintroduced over the coming months with the first being the history trip to the Holocaust Memorial Centre next term.

**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

## Key Standards and Expectations

As we move into Year 9 the focus will be on maintaining the high standards of attendance, uniform and behaviour that has been developed over the last two years. Students will be rewarded for their efforts both in terms of excellent attendance and uniform along with exceptional attitudes to learning. As part of this we will expect that all students will arrive on time and be ready to learn, that they will have the correct equipment for the day which includes a pen, pencil, ruler, calculator, reading book and all of their class books. They must also be prepared to give 100% effort in lessons and to be resilient when things are tough. Students must also adhere to the school's uniform policy and the jewellery policy at all times. The link to the updated uniform requirements can be found below. Please be aware that 'stretchy skirts' are not accepted as uniform. The correct type of skirts are shown in the link.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u-tJg93H74zLzsOKHqr\\_r\\_V5tTm-OYZo/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u-tJg93H74zLzsOKHqr_r_V5tTm-OYZo/view?usp=sharing)

## Covid Update

As I am sure you are aware, the school leaders have worked tirelessly over the pandemic to ensure that a safe return could be made to the school site and the precautions that have been put in place have been exceptional. This has allowed us, as a school, to keep both our own students and staff as safe as possible and this has also had an effect on the wider community too. As we move to the 'step up' programme, and restrictions begin to ease nationally, it would be easy to forget about the protocols in place but it is imperative that we continue to follow these precautions for us to continue to be safe in school.

- Sanitise/wash hands regularly
- Wearing of masks in indoor areas where social distancing is not possible
- Keeping their social distance inside and outside where possible
- Continue to test twice weekly and record results

Finally, I would like to say thank you to you as parents/carers for your continued support in what has been another unconventional year. We look forward to working with you as we work towards being GCSE ready over the next year.

Yours sincerely



Kayleigh Pearse  
Year 8 Achievement Leader