



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



20 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of term reflection & information for September

We want to start by thanking all of you for your fantastic support throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. As a school community we united, collaborated and pushed through it all together. Never more so have we felt the power of #TeamHeanor.

As a school we are immensely proud of the work which has taken place this year. The staff have gone above and beyond to ensure that our young people never lost out educationally as victims of the pandemic, and the opportunities our students have experienced through the ‘Step Up’ initiative have been unbelievable. The students have shown resilience in abundance and their willingness to engage, adapt and support one another has been outstanding. As we break up for a well-earned rest over the summer we wanted to get in touch to confirm some of the plans for September and the year ahead. However, if we have learnt one thing from the pandemic, it is that plans can change in a heartbeat. Therefore whilst we have tried to be organised and put plans in place, these as always are subject to change if we need to respond to new guidance. So that you are as informed as possible, please find below a synopsis of some key information:

1. TESTING

At present the future advice around testing is unknown. What we do know is that there is no expectation for children to test at home over the summer but that every child must be tested in school prior to starting back in September. This will mean a staggered start to the term. Further details will follow with regards to timings but the dates of testing and phased return to school are in the table below:

Year group	Date of on-site test	Planned start to school term
Year 12	INSET Thursday 2 nd September - am	Monday 6 th
Year 13	INSET Thursday 2 nd September - pm	Monday 6 th
Year 7	INSET Friday 3 rd September - am	Friday 3 rd (will stay in school following test)
Year 11	INSET Friday 3 rd September - pm	Monday 6 th
Year 10	Monday 6 th September - am	Tuesday 7 th
Year 9	Monday 6 th September - pm	Tuesday 7 th
Year 8	Tuesday 7 th September - am	Wednesday 8 th

2. TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We have decided that the previous Wednesday bespoke timings will be permanently phased out of the school day. We have also returned to one break time for all year groups, but kept numerous dining facilities to support the calm atmospheres which have been afforded due to less children within crowded spaces. Timings for the school day will now be as follows:

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Email: mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

Kirkley Drive, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7RA

Time	Event	Notes
08.45	Deadline for students to be on site	
08.50	Tutor time	
09.10	Period 1	
10.10	Period 2	
11.10	Morning break	New gym - Y7 and 8, Hall - Y9, 10 & 11, S block Common Room- Y12 & 13
11.25	Period 3	
12.25	Period 4a	Lunch for Y8 & 10 (hall), lunch for Y12 (S block common room)
12.55	Period 4 b	Lunch for Y7
13.25	Period 4 c	Lunch for Y9 & 11 (hall), lunch for Y13 (S block common room)
13.55	Period 5	
14.55	End school day	

3. OPERATING STANDARDS

Over recent years we have built up a strong culture of attendance, punctuality, presentation and discipline within the academy. All of the systems which have been established in recent years will remain and we will continue to insist on the very highest of standards. A couple of key reminders:

- Minimum attendance is set at 97%. Holidays in term time are not authorised unless they are for exceptional circumstances and we will continue to work with the local authority in terms of tackling persistent absence and issue fixed penalty notices where appropriate.
- Students must be on school site no later than 8.45am and students who are late will be sanctioned as per the school's Attendance Policy.
- The uniform is comprehensive and we will not apologise for maintaining high standards of appearance. For a useful guide on what is acceptable and what is not, please follow this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wl25n5U47-J7oP3s9YMiWUfiKeF5mvo2/view?usp=sharing>
- It is essential that all students have the correct equipment so they are 'ready to learn.' Our minimum expectation is that all students will always have a pen, pencil, ruler, a maths set and calculator. Equally we expect this equipment to be carried in an appropriate school bag. We have recently purchased all students a white board and board pen. We expect students to have these with them each day.

Students will be responsible for their school books and will need to bring the correct set of books to and from school on a daily basis. We have encouraged students to be 'proud' of their presentation and this allows students to share their great work with parents and carers at home.

4. SYNERGY

From September we will be moving to a new system which will greatly improve communication between school and home. In time we will be launching student and parent portals which will allow you to access live attendance, behaviour and achievement information for your child, as well as centralising communications. However, in the first instance you may simply notice that some of the emails that you receive from school make reference to 'Synergy'. We will be in touch in the new term to give you further information.

5. LEARNING @ HEANOR GATE EVENTS

Given the uncertainty around what September will look like, we are yet to decide whether these events will take place remotely or in person. The events are scheduled for w/c Monday 13 September and once guidance becomes clearer we will make appropriate arrangements to release dates for these as soon as possible.

On Thursday we will be signing off the academic year with our infamous Sports Day. Students should wear PE for the day and bring plenty of water and sun cream with them. All students will need to be onsite for morning registration by 8.40am and all students will finish and break up for the summer holidays at 1.40pm. If you have any questions around this please contact your child's achievement team.

We wish you a pleasant summer break and look forward to returning in the new academic year where hopefully we can push on past the pandemic and return to as 'normal' a functioning school as possible.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal



Mr M Jones
Senior Vice Principal