



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



13 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The penultimate week of the school year is upon us and we are trying our very best to ensure we get to next Thursday with as little disruption to our school life as possible. Unfortunately over the weekend we have been informed of a substantial number of positive cases both amongst the student and staff population.

As of 1:00pm today, we have 6 new positive cases confirmed by PCR tests and a further 5 students testing positive on lateral flow tests, currently awaiting PCR results. Due to our comprehensive track and trace system, only 99 students in total are currently having to self-isolate. However, as you will be aware, the rise in cases is much higher than we have seen previously and is something we need to be mindful of. This appears to be a replication of the situation both locally and nationally.

We have had to make amendments to the calendar and postpone both the summer concert, 'Heanor Fest' and the 'physical' awards evening scheduled for next week. We have also had to change our Y6 intake evening taking place this evening to become a remote/virtual event.

As we approach the Step 4 unlocking on 19 July and the final run up to the summer holidays, we must ensure that **caution** is our priority. The Prime Minister said last night that *"it is absolutely vital that we proceed now with caution. And I cannot say this powerfully or emphatically enough. This pandemic is not over."*

Whilst we will be in touch in due course with plans for September, over the remaining 7 days of this term we urge all of our students to show extra **caution**. The government guidance states that "if your school is still open at Step 4, you may wish to continue with these [control] measures until the end of your summer term." As such, we will continue to insist that bubbles do not mix: we will continue to stress the need for good hand hygiene; we will continue to insist that students sit in consistent groups of no more than 6 during social times and we will strongly encourage mask wearing in busy spaces.

Our school community has been superb throughout the pandemic and we all need a good break over the summer; staff and students alike. Therefore we must try and reduce the chance of transmission in the final week so that all of us (staff, students, parents, carers) can break up on 22 July and not have the dreaded news of further periods of self-isolation etc.

The final lateral flow tests (Wednesday 14, Sunday 18 and Wednesday 21 July 2021) are crucial to detect any potential cases. We urge that you remember to take these tests and report the results to us as a priority.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal

Telephone: 01773 716396

Website: www.heanorgate.org.uk

Email: mail@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

Mr M Jones
Senior Vice Principal