



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



Dear Parent/Carer

This week sees the end of another academic year and the start of our summer break. The last 12 weeks are not quite how we imagined our summer term to be, however, the majority of our students have risen to the challenges of home schooling and continued to work hard, adapting quickly to a new way of learning, showing the resilience we have so often talked about and ultimately producing work of a high quality.

As an Achievement Team we could not be prouder of them. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge your support during these unprecedented times, not only for us as an Achievement Team and Heanor Gate as a school, but most importantly for your child in helping to continue their education at home. We fully recognise this is no easy task as a parent, often juggling home and work commitments, and we thank you for this.

Please can I request that you contact the office should you be planning on dropping off or collecting more than one child where they start/finish at different times. Your child's Achievement Leader will arrange somewhere for them to wait which ensures that they are not mixing with other year group bubbles. Please email: contact@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk or call if you are unable to do this (contact number below).

Can I also make you aware that the English Department are launching the “Summer Read-A-Long” starting on Monday 20 July. This is our approach to recently published research which shows that when secondary school-aged students have two novels read to them back-to-back for 20 minutes per day, their literacy levels are improved by 9 months. There is more information which can be found about this by clicking this [link](#) and on your child's Google Classroom account.

Before we wish you all a peaceful and safe summer break, we wanted to give you the answers to some common questions that our students may have so that you can share these with them prior to September.

What do the September opening plans mean for **our** bubble?

- **Who is in our bubble?** Our bubble will consist of our year 8 students only.
- **Where is our bubble based and where do we line up (outside of block)?** Our bubble will be based solely in E block and the students should line up, in tutor groups, at the top of the gym stairs by the side of E block before morning registration.

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- **What time does our day start and finish?** The school day for the year 8 students will begin at 8.50am and finish at 2.55pm. The students should enter the school through the double gates by the main hall and make their way up 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 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 12.25-12.55. The break and lunch times will differ for all year groups to allow the bubbles to remain intact.
- **Where is our break and lunch time?** The year 8 bubble will have their break and lunch times in the new gym. The outside social space for the year group will be limited to underneath the gym due to current guidelines. No other social spaces will be able to be accessed at this time.
- **What can I eat at school?**
I have attached the new school menu with price lists. Students who would like to bring their own packed lunches to school are still able to do so.
- **When and where can I go to the toilet?** Each bubble will have their own toilet facilities. For year 8s these will be the toilets in E block. Students will be permitted to go to the toilet during lessons but should be advised that this is the area most at risk for germ transmission unnecessary use of the facilities should be avoided.
- **When/where can I go if I need help?** It is inevitable that some students may be feeling slightly anxious about returning to school in September but as usual the Achievement team and the tutors will be around during the registration period every morning to support the students to get back into a school routine and ease any of the worries they may have. Mrs Pearse and Mr Stoddart will also be available before and after the school day in the E block Achievement team office and in the New Gym at break and Lunch time to answer any queries.
- **I normally catch the bus; will this service be affected?**
Littles have yet to confirm their capacity and procedures for September. We would suggest that you make alternative arrangements for the first day of school.

Unfortunately our normal assessment and feedback process to students and parents has been severely impacted by Covid. This has meant we could not provide the normal reports to parents this academic year. We will however prioritise this for our cohort next year and will work to provide you with a school report as early as possible after the summer break.

The expectations of year 8 students in terms of dress and conduct remain unchanged from last year and should be fully adhered to. We also expect that all students are fully prepared and ready to learn with a full set of personal equipment. This is particularly important from September when we will be more limited in terms of the equipment we can lend out. Given the disruption to learning that has occurred since March it will be absolutely imperative that school attendance is kept as high as possible to ensure that the year 8 students reach their potential. Please help us to achieve this by encouraging and insisting that your child attends every day.

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

Have a safe and relaxing summer.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Pearse
Achievement Leader