



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of term reflection & information for September

This academic year has been a rollercoaster of lockdowns, live lessons, remote learning and bubbles and the students in our “Step Up” Year 9 have adapted and developed well as the year has progressed. As we have now reached the end of the summer term we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support which has helped us to get the students set up for a successful start to their GCSE studies in some subjects. After an overwhelmingly positive start to Step Up Year 9, we are now looking forward to September and watching our students grow and take real ownership of their learning and behaviour as they head on their GCSE journey and we would value your continued support with this.

Below are a few key reminders for the year group that will help us settle into September well. As you will have noted in the letter from Mr Huntington, the Year 9 students will begin their year at 8.45am prompt on Tuesday the 7 September after having their in school COVID tests on the afternoon of Monday the 6 September.

Attendance and punctuality is going to be a key focus of Year 9 as this goes hand in hand with the progress that students will make within school, and good attendance begins on the first day. We will expect that all students are in every day where possible and we will support additional needs within school if your child is slightly under the weather. If your child’s attendance does begin to fall or they are persistently late to school we will be in contact to address the issues and provide support where needed.

We would also like you to refresh yourself with the uniform expectations in the Standards and Expectations letter. This term we have seen a drastic improvement in uniform standards and we would like to thank you for supporting us with this. Please could we ask that you read the uniform guide thoroughly and pay particular attention to the style and fit of the girls’ trousers and also the policy on socks.

Alongside this we have seen an increase in students wearing jewellery to school including new piercings. Piercings, other than one set in the lobe of the ear, are not allowed in school and students will be asked to remove these along with any other items of jewellery.

We also ask that you remind your child on the use of mobile phones within school and should you require to contact them urgently during the school day, we ask that this is done through our main reception and not their mobile phone.

With our students now embarking on their GCSE journey at Heanor Gate, we will be undertaking a “Learning@” evening in September. With guidance constantly changing we are not yet sure whether this will be delivered face-to-face or remotely. Either way we will use this event to explain what the year will entail for the students and how they can maximise their potential before choosing their all-important GCSE subjects this year. We advise that you attend/watch the presentation and contact either me or Mr Stoddart with any questions that you may have. This will allow us to work collaboratively to support and guide students towards picking suitable courses to enable them to achieve highly this year. Students in Year 9 will also have their academic progress tracked throughout the year at our various assessment points which will help us to provide interventions and strategic support where it is required.

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The students will also have the opportunity to showcase their leadership and development skills with the addition of the Year 9 prefect role. More information about the application for this will be given to the students in September. The students chosen for these roles will truly embody the #TeamHearnor spirit and work to support both the school and the wider community.

As an achievement team both Mr Stoddart and I have recognised the hard work that our students have put in over the year and the flexibility that they have shown in adapting to the new normal. We are sure that with the renewed vigour they have shown during step up that they are ready to move onto their GCSE pathways and that to do this they need the well-deserved summer holidays to relax and recharge.

We both wish you all a happy and safe summer holiday and look forward to working with you again in September to support your children to achieve.

Yours sincerely



Kayleigh Pearse
Year 9 Achievement Leader



Martin Stoddart
Year 9 Assistant Achievement Leader