



21 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Pathways Process

As you may be aware, we are approaching what for many students is the most crucial time of Year 9 – the Pathways into the next phase of their school career. To enable this process to run smoothly, I thought it was important to write to you before Christmas to let you know how this process will run over the next few months.

Pathways is the process through which students at Heanor Gate Spencer Academy are guided into the subjects which will suit their interests, career aspirations and abilities. For our students to access the careers they want, it is vitally important that they get this phase right to not limit themselves in any way beyond the age of sixteen.

Starting in January, there will be a Pathways launch assembly followed by the launch of a virtual website. This website will contain a short presentation alongside videos and information about the process and the different subjects on offer. We would normally do this face-to-face but given the ever changing guidance around Covid, we do not feel confident that this can happen at this time. We will be in touch to let you know when this site is live.

From Monday 17 January all students will then be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, along with myself, to provide them with individual advice and guidance to help them make their Pathways choices. These discussions will be based partly on what they want to do in this next phase, but also partly what we know of the student and their capabilities. As stated, this phase is about maximising their opportunities for their future and we would ask you to support us with this. At this stage all students will be given a Pathways form to share with yourselves at home which will outline our recommendations for GCSE.

Thursday 3 February 2022: There will be an opportunity to meet and discuss your child's progress during the **Y9 Consultation evening**. We do not yet know if this will be face-to-face or virtual; a decision will be made on this in January.

Monday 7 February 2022: The Pathway form will need to be completed and returned to school.

From **7 March 2022** students will receive their final confirmation of Pathway selections.

To support this process students should use the **Unifrog** platform. This is an incredibly powerful tool for our students to access and they should be encouraged to make use of this both at school and at home to aid them in their decision making process. They have had time on this during tutor periods but do ask your child to show you this tool and spend some time going through it with them.

Thank you for your support in this process.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kayleigh Pearse
Year 9 Achievement Leader