



July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of term reflection & information for September

As we approach the end of our first full year back at school post-pandemic, we reflect on what a year it has been.

We are immensely proud of the work that has taken place this year. We want to start by celebrating the collective success of the Ofsted inspection back in May. As we communicated previously, that report wasn't just the result of a 2 day inspection, it was more a celebration of our growth and development over the last 5 years. In addition to that, the school was recognised nationally in the form of a nomination for a TES Award, we have seen our Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts sit formal examinations for the first time since 2019, we have seen some of our big events return such as our performance of Matilda and Heanor Fest as well as the introduction of new events such as our Art exhibition and back in February we took every single student in the school out on a school trip at no cost to students and families.

As a school we continue to go from strength to strength and we are genuinely excited to see what September brings. So that everyone is fully prepared for our return in September, we just wanted to remind you of a few key pieces of information.

1. ATTENDANCE AND TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

School attendance has been proven to have a huge impact on achieving good grades. Every student at this school is expected to maintain an attendance level of at least 97%, in line with the Government's expectations. Whilst it is appreciated that children are unwell from time to time, and there may be exceptional circumstances for absences, please think carefully about taking your child out of school, as persistent absence is proven to have a significant impact upon a child's educational attainment. We will continue to work with the local authority in terms of tackling persistent absence and issue fixed penalty notices where appropriate.

Being on time is not only an essential life skill, but also something which has a huge impact on learning. Being on time to school provides a positive routine which sets students up for the day ahead and being on time for lessons allows teachers to maximize time available to help students learn. A reminder that the school day starts at 8.50am and students should be on site and in their tutor group lines by 8.45am. In order for that to happen students should aim to be through the school gates by 8.40am.

2. BEHAVIOUR SYSTEMS

Strong discipline has always been a key driver for the success of our school and students on the whole behave really well. The school has an achievement and behaviour pathway which has been in place for some time now and this will continue next year with little change.

3. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

At Heanor Gate we pride ourselves on being prepared for school and looking extremely smart and ready to learn. It is paramount that your child comes to school in the correct uniform. 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>

A reminder that all Spencer Academy Trust schools operate some entry level standards that are consistent across all of the schools. These will remain in place and include:

- 1) no jewellery is to be worn, with the exception of one stud in each earlobe. No visible necklaces, bracelets, rings or other piercings (including tongue piercings or those in the helix or tragus) will be allowed.
- 2) students will only be permitted to wear 'subtle makeup' but will not be permitted to wear nail varnish or polish. In addition, no extreme or unnatural hair colouring or styles will be permitted.

These Spencer Academy Trust standards are non-negotiable so please ensure you do not send your child to school with any prohibited items of jewellery or make up. Failure to meet the correct uniform standards will result in your child needing to be collected from school to rectify any issues.



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 reading book, pen, pencil, ruler, maths set and calculator. In addition to this, all students must bring with them a mini whiteboard and pen, which they will be provided with at the start of the academic year. Should these need replacing, they can be purchased for a small fee from reception or on ParentPay. Students are also expected to carry this equipment in an appropriate school bag.

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

The new term will see the launch of the student portal on Synergy, allowing students to take even greater responsibility for their learning, attendance and behaviour. We also look forward to launching the Synergy app at some point in the new academic year, meaning that parents and carers can access student information more readily than ever before.

5. SAFEGUARDING

During the summer holidays staff will have limited access to their emails. If you have got an immediate safeguarding concern about a student please contact either:

Derbyshire (Derbyshire County Council Social Services) on 01629 533190 or First Contact (Derby City Council Social Services) on 01332 641172.

For any non-urgent safeguarding concerns or updates please email safeguarding@heanorgatespencer.com. This email will be monitored periodically throughout the summer holidays.

6. LEARNING @ HEANOR GATE EVENTS

Given the success of our virtual delivery of these events during the pandemic, the 'Learning at' evenings for Y7-10 and Y13 will remain virtual. Given the very specific nature of both year groups, the events for Year 11 and Year 12 will take place in person on the following dates:

Y11	Tuesday 13 September 2022
Y12	Monday 12 September 2022

As always, this week will see the departure of some highly valued colleagues, who will be duly replaced by staff joining us in September. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who are leaving us, in particular two members of the senior team who have been instrumental in the improvements we have managed to make over the past 5 years. Dominic Hudson and Steve Phillips will both be moving onto bigger roles within other schools, one within the multi-academy trust and one within another trust. We wish them all the very best. In the meantime, Mr Wright and Mr Graham have been seconded to the senior team in the positions of Associate Assistant Principal.

A reminder that on the final day of term, Friday 22 July 2022, students will finish school at 1pm. Our reception will be open for the following dates over the summer break:

- Week commencing 25 July 2022
- Wednesday 17 August 2022
- Thursday 18 August 2022
- Week commencing 22 August 2022
- Wednesday 31 August 2022



We wish you a pleasant summer break and look forward to returning in the new academic year in line with our phased start:

INSET day (all)	Thursday 1 September 2022
Y7 & 12	Friday 2 September 2022
Y8, 9, 10, 11 & 13	Monday 5 September 2022

Yours sincerely

Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal

Mr M Jones
Senior Vice Principal