



21 July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly I would like to start by thanking all of our parents and carers for your ongoing support this year. Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their Heanor Gate journey. Our expectations will remain the same moving into Year 8 as we will continue to strive for high standards of attendance, uniform and behaviour. Students will be rewarded for their efforts both in terms of excellent attendance and uniform along with exceptional attitudes to learning.

### **What are the key changes/priorities for Year 8?**

Year 8 will see students accessing a wider variety of subjects across the school site which I hope will create a real 'buzz for learning'. In addition, later in Year 8, students begin to make the first of their subject choices within the Humanities and Design, Technology and Visual Arts (DTVA) faculties and these will be chosen after Christmas. A graduation event will be held next summer for those students who have achieved a set criteria based around attendance, effort, progress and extra-curricular involvement. The students that achieve this status will be rewarded with a bronze, silver or gold award certificate at a formal event that parents will be invited to attend.

Before breaking up for the summer holidays I wanted to cover some of the important points ready for September:

### **Key standards and expectations**

Expectations will be the same as they have been previously for students.

#### Uniform and equipment

- Students need to be fully equipped for the school day (pen, pencil, ruler, scientific calculator, reading book and whiteboard/pen)
- Students need to ensure that they are in correct school uniform - guidance can be found on the school website  
I wish to highlight that school skirts must be to the knee and of a non-stretch material, shirts need to be tucked in and no extreme haircuts/unnatural colours
- Students should ensure, wherever possible, that they have good attendance (above 97%). Please help us to achieve this by encouraging and insisting that your child attends every day.

### **Tutor time programme**

Students have access to their own personal tutor who they will see every morning during tutor time. During this time students will have access to further support and opportunities such as bespoke interventions, careers advice and sessions on personal development which helps students develop socially and emotionally to become responsible citizens.

### **Extracurricular and Rewards**

This year we saw the return of many clubs such as football, netball, art and drama. As we continue to move forward there will be more extra-curricular activities on offer. This will allow us to offer more enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom such as school trips and fixtures in the academic year 2022/23. Please look at ParentPay if you wish to take up any opportunities provided during trip week 2023.

We will continue to reward students for good attendance/punctuality and the progress they are making at school, regularly celebrating their success. We will do this through awarding achievement points to students, attendance recognition letters and e-postcards amongst other things.



**What time does our day start and finish?**

The school day for the Year 8 students will begin at 8.45am and finish at 2.55pm. The students should be on site for 8.40am each morning ready to line up outside E block.

**Who should I contact if I have a question?**

For general queries regarding student progress across the curriculum, please contact your child's form tutor or either Mrs Wainwright or Mrs Britton .

Finally can I thank you for your continued support in helping us to maintain these high standards. With your support they will continue the excellent progress they have made in the time they have already had with us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'M Britton'.

**Mrs M Britton**  
**Year 7 Achievement Leader**