



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

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

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had a restful break and your child managed to rest and re-energise for the half term ahead. There is a lot going on and lots to look forward to.

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you for your support so far this year. The students in our year have continued to have really mature attitudes and are making positive progress in their lessons. We really do believe that we have one of the best year groups in the school and have high hopes for their future. If they can maintain this attitude and progress they will be successful in Year 11.

With that said, we have one significant area of concern that could impact negatively on a student's progress. Attendance is not where it should be for too many students. We will continue to work with parents over this, but it is vital that students attend every day unless they are really ill or for other major issues. Statistically it has been shown that attendance below 95% can have a serious detrimental effect on progress and attainment by as much as one grade per subject. We want our students to achieve their full potential; therefore it is important they attend school every day.

Homework has improved since the first term, but could be improved further. Some students have not yet got into the routine expected and we would appreciate your support in this. You should now be able to see what homework is being set following the roll out of Google Classroom to parents (if you have any issues with this please let us know). Please take the time to talk your child about their work and check that it has been completed to the best of their ability to ensure they make the best progress possible.

Also, please note that the second Year 10 formal assessment period starts on Friday 6 March, during which they will have mock exams in the hall for both maths and English. These assessments will not only enable students to get into exam routine and become familiar with of expectations during formal exams; staff will also gain a valuable insight into where students are in terms of their understanding and progress.

To ensure this snapshot is as accurate as possible, it is asked you encourage your child to revise. Students will be sitting a full GCSE paper in maths so will need to revise everything they have done so far. In English they will have a combined Language and Literature paper focussing on the Power and Conflict poetry in Literature and a paper 2 question 5 persuasive writing assessment in Language. There will be after school revision sessions for maths on Wednesday and for English on Thursday which I would strongly recommend for all students to attend. I have asked all other curriculum areas to notify students of the area for revision via Google Classroom.

Finally, dates for your diary. A reminder that the Year 10 parents' evening is on Thursday 26 March (a letter should be brought home by your child today). Attendance at this is vital for both students and parents so that you know where your child is in terms of their progress and attainment. Please ensure these letters are returned to tutors as soon as possible. We will also be running another 'Take Your Child to Work Day' at the end of the year on Thursday 16 July. This scheme was highly successful last year and students benefited a lot from the experience, so we hope you can support with this again.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor or me if you have any issues or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Tyler
Year 10 Achievement Leader

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