



16 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well.

As we approach Christmas at a time of ever-rising living costs, Heanor Gate Spencer Academy continues to be committed to supporting families with some of the burdens that this time of year can bring. As such, I wanted to signpost you to some of the support that is available:

Food Bank Support

As a school we have been supporting the local charity Salcare by donating food items to aid the local community. Some of our students have also been volunteering in the Salcare shop. If you wish to access this support, the Salcare food bank at 59 Ray Street, Heanor is open between 10am-1pm on Tuesdays and Fridays, with The Pantry being open daily between 9.30am-2.00pm.

Government Support

In addition, the Government has awarded further Household Support Grants to Derbyshire County Council in order to support local families facing hardship over the winter months (October 2022-March 2023). Derbyshire County Council also intends to distribute **free grocery vouchers** to families with children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals, children in receipt of 2, 3 and 4 year old early years funding for low-income households and care leavers aged up to 21 as part of this funding.

Derbyshire County Council have asked us to share the link below which explains more about the grants and contains links to the scheme guidance and the assessment/referral form:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

Local Supermarkets

Local supermarkets have also launched a range of initiatives to support families. At ASDA, children under the age of 16 can eat for £1 until the end of 2022. Morrisons are also offering children under the age of 16 a free meal when an adult purchases a meal. Further deals at supermarkets can be found below:

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/supermarket/>

Christmas Dinner Day

Tuesday 20 December is Christmas dinner day at Heanor Gate Spencer Academy. As communicated previously by Mr Jones, within school those students who have 100% attendance and 0 negative behaviour points between the 1 and 16 December will receive a free Christmas dinner. Alongside this, we are raising money for Save the Children by donating £1 to wear a Christmas jumper. Students who participate in wearing something festive will be permitted to wear non-school uniform. If due to financial hardship your child does not have a Christmas jumper, but wishes to participate then please direct them to their Achievement Leader. Those who do not wish to participate are to attend in normal uniform. Wednesday 21 December will be a non uniform day.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

Mr Wright

Associate Assistant Principal & Achievement Leader for Year 7