



17 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to start by thanking everyone for their kind words, warm wishes and messages of support since my appointment as Principal. Despite being here since 2016, I have never felt more welcome and your support as a community will help us continue to evolve and achieve amazing things together.

As we reach the halfway point in our academic year, I wanted to write to you to celebrate all of the fantastic things that have happened within the academy over the last 6 weeks.

The core focus of student learning has been really strong and the abundance of parents' evenings have allowed a positive dialogue between home and school. The attitude of Year 11 has been superb, attendance at intervention has been flawless and over 130 families joined us for our Year 11 Education Evening, aimed at equipping parents with the knowledge and resources to support their children at home during the final run into their examinations.

We have had Year 8, 9 and 11 go through pathways applications for next year and have seen them really excited to make choices about their future directions. We also had our second immersion day which saw a range of trips and external visitors, both from industry, the health sector and higher education. Over 100 students have graduated from their current literacy interventions which aligns with our whole school focus on literacy, of which further information was shared in Mr Stanley's correspondence earlier this week.

Our #TeamHeanor values have been evident again this term with students earning 3690 'A points' for their commitment to the value of 'integrity', with many students working hard on taking responsibility for their individual and collective actions. The reputation of the school is continuing to blossom and as we approach primary offer day in a few weeks time, we are again in a position where we are likely to be oversubscribed. In line with our vision of 'Aspire', today 15 of our most academically astute Year 11 students have visited the University of Oxford. They will receive an insight into one of the UK's most prestigious universities and hopefully that will inspire them to believe that there are no limits to any of our ambitions. The success and continued growth at Post 16 also means that to date we have received a record 229 applications for September, 91 of which are from students who currently do not attend Heanor Gate.

Last but not least, I wanted to recognise the amazing efforts of all the students and staff who put on an amazing three night production of 'Popstars - The 90's Musical'. The collective effort of everyone involved really embodied our #TeamHeanor mentality and I was proud to see so many students from different year groups shine in their moment on stage.

As we break for half term, I must draw your attention to the second day of scheduled industrial action which is due to take place on Wednesday 1 March 2023. As always, we will put a plan in place to retain the majority of students in school and I will endeavour to communicate with you during next week with the exact details of how the industrial action will impact individual year groups.

I wish everyone a relaxing half term, other than the 93 students and staff joining me on the ski trip to Austria. I'm looking forward to another successful trip and will be excited to share some more great memories with our amazing school community.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Jones
Principal