



December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you of some important dates for your calendar, as well as some structural changes to the Year 9 Achievement Team which will commence from January.

Changes to the Achievement Team

As you are aware, Mrs Britton, the current Achievement Leader for Year 9, has recently been seconded to the Senior Leadership Team. As such, we have made it our number one priority to replace her in a way that will best support the year group throughout their most crucial time at school. From January, Mrs Kate Barlow and Mrs Gina Lynam will become joint Achievement Leaders, with Mrs Wainwright continuing her role as Assistant Achievement Leader. Whilst the general responsibilities will be shared, Miss Barlow will be overseeing the progress of students in LAB, RAA and RB, whereas Mrs Lynam will be overseeing the progress of students in CMK, GE (previously LAT), EAP and LSB.

If you need to contact any of the Year 9 Achievement Team, please do so using the email address below:
year9al@heanorgatespencer.com

Year 9 Pathways Process

In January, all Year 9 students will begin their Pathways process. This is the process of selecting which subjects they would like to study in Year 10 and beyond. So that students are fully informed, it is important that they engage in the following steps prior to making a selection.

Starting in the New Year, there will be a Pathways launch assembly followed by the launch of a virtual website on **Monday 15 January 2024**. This website will contain a short presentation alongside videos and information about the process and the different subjects on offer. We will be in touch to let you know when this site is live.

From **Monday 5 February 2024**, all students will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Leadership or Achievement teams. This is to provide them with bespoke advice and guidance on making informed Pathways choices. These discussions will be based partly on what they want to do in this next phase, but also what we know of the student and their capabilities and how this ties in with their future education and career intentions. We ask you to support us with this.

At this stage, all students will be given a Pathways form to share with you at home, which will outline our recommended subject choices.

Here are some other key dates for the Pathways process:

- **Thursday 1 February 2024:** There will be an opportunity to meet and discuss your child's progress during the Year 9 Consultation evening.
- **Tuesday 13 February 2024:** Deadline for pathways forms to be completed online.
- **Week beginning 4 March 2024:** Students will receive their final confirmation of Pathways selections.

To support this process, students should also use the [Unifrog](#) online platform, for which they all have login details. This is an incredibly powerful tool to aid them in their decision making process. They can also access advice from our careers advisor Mrs Blurton in the library at break and lunch times.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Stanley
Vice Principal