



January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year! As we embark on this new year, I would like to start by extending our heartfelt gratitude to parents for your unwavering support of our school and the policies we have in place.

Your partnership plays a pivotal role in creating a positive and nurturing learning environment for our students. By upholding and reinforcing our school's values and guidelines at home, you are instrumental in fostering a cohesive community where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Key Standards and Expectations

As we move forward, we are dedicated to continuing these high standards around attendance, uniform, and attitude to learning. Students excelling in these areas and displaying exceptional attitudes to learning will be recognised and rewarded. This will also start to build a reference for students who will be looking to apply to sixth forms, colleges and apprenticeships next year.

With this in mind, we kindly request that students adhere to our established standards and expectations. We expect all students to wear the school uniform with pride and ensure it is worn correctly at all times (<https://heanorgatespencer.com/uniform>). Hair should be neat and tidy, with extreme hairstyles and colours avoided. Additionally, we kindly remind students that excessive or distracting jewellery is not permitted. These standards help create a focused and respectful atmosphere, ensuring that every student can learn and thrive to their fullest potential.

Achievement Team

Throughout the year we will continually track your child's academic progress in all subjects and provide any necessary intervention to ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential by the end of Year 11. Should you have any questions regarding this at any time throughout the next academic year please do not hesitate to contact us.

Alongside your child's lesson timetable, we will provide a broad and balanced tutor time programme which will enhance their education in the following areas:

- o English/Maths/ study skills
- o Personal Development/RSE/Citizenship
- o Careers
- o Key themes delivered through weekly assemblies

With this in mind it is of paramount importance that your child is punctual, has good attendance and is ready to learn every day.

Whilst not wishing to rush away the forthcoming academic year, towards the end of Year 10, our students will have the opportunity to apply for the prestigious positions of Head Boy and Girl. This will involve a written application process, alongside an interview with the Principal. An exciting opportunity I know many are already looking forward to. This, together with applications for becoming a prefect, will allow aspirational students to gain valuable experience of responsibility which will help them develop towards being valued members of the school and wider community.

Assessment week

Furthermore, as the assessments for Year 10 students are approaching, scheduled for the **week commencing 12 February**, we encourage students to begin their revision preparations earnestly. Effective revision not only reinforces classroom learning but also helps students to build confidence and perform at their best during assessments. We recommend setting aside dedicated study time each day, utilising resources available on our online platforms, and seeking guidance from teachers when needed. Together, with your support at home and our guidance at school, we believe our students will be well-prepared and poised for success.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child's education. We look forward to a productive and successful year ahead.

Parents' evening

Following the assessment week we will have a **parents' evening on 7 March 2024**. Given that students have now started their GCSE studies, your attendance at this event is of paramount importance. This invaluable opportunity will allow you to engage directly with teachers, gain insights into your child's progress, and collaboratively discuss strategies to support their academic journey. We strongly encourage all parents to prioritise this event, as your involvement plays a crucial role in fostering academic success and wellbeing. Further communication around this event will be sent after half term.

Synergy

Finally, a reminder that moving forward, most of the communication that you receive from school will come from your school Synergy account. If you have not already done so, downloading the Synergy app and ensuring that notifications are enabled will help with this process:  [Synergy Parent App.pdf](#) If you are having issues accessing your account then please email synergysupport@heanorgatespencer.com

We are sure this coming term will be just as memorable and successful as the last one.

We wish you all a fantastic start to 2024!

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Hulland

Year 10 Achievement Leader



Mrs A McLeod

Year 10 Assistant Achievement Leader

