



January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your families have had a restful and joyful holiday. I mentioned to the year group before we broke up that it was the last chance they would get for a break before we started the final run-in to their GCSE exams. I have to say that the students have returned to school with an attitude to learning that is even a step up on the last half term; the challenge now is to maintain this right up until their exams.

In assembly on Monday we discussed two key dates: 4 March and 6 May. The first date, 4 March, is the second Monday after half term and will see the students sit their second set of mocks. We obviously hope the students achieve progress from the first set of mocks, but it also gives us invaluable data to continue to adapt our interventions. The second date, 6 May, is the first possible day the students may have an actual GCSE examination. Whilst some students may have exams early that week, we do know that all students will sit their first science exam on the Friday of that week, followed by English the following Monday. This gives the students two clear time-lines to follow and should help them plan their revision.

Next Monday will see the commencement of Intervention Wave 2. Students will have all the information they need for any morning or afternoon interventions they may have by this Friday. It is imperative that the students attend every session they have been allocated; if for any reason this is not possible, please do let us know in good time so that other provisions can be put in place. Students will also receive a pocket sized plastic wallet on Friday that will have their intervention timetables, lesson timetables and their intervention loyalty card in it.

The intervention loyalty card is an incentive that we have put in place to encourage students to attend as many interventions as possible between now and the end of the half term. Every session they attend will see them receive a stamp, and for every 12 stamps that a student receives they are rewarded with a free breakfast roll, queue jump for lunch and break and a discount for either the prom, year book or year group hoodie, all of which they will be able to order soon.

I appreciate that it is January and given the current financial climate of the country, I have allocated some of our rewards budget to help students pay for the above mentioned year group items and events. Between now and the end of the half term students can gain a discount by having outstanding attendance, progress, behaviour and intervention attendance, which will all be logged on their 'Prom Passport'. Please ask your child about this and what they can do to make it all as cheap as possible!

In contrast, I must also reinforce the point that should students not meet the high standards we have in school for attendance and behaviour then as a school we reserve the right to take some of these privileges from students. Obviously, I sincerely hope this is not the case.

I will continue to update you throughout the half term via the fortnightly newsletter, which can be found on the school website.

It is going to be a six-month period of hard work for our students and they will need all of our support to ensure their well being both mentally and physically is high whilst also making sure that they achieve their potential academically.

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

Yours sincerely



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