



January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As we welcome students back after their Christmas break, we wanted to introduce ourselves and remind you of some key pieces of information. Mrs Kate Barlow and Mrs Gina Lynam are now joint Achievement Leaders, with Mrs Wainwright continuing her role as Assistant Achievement Leader. Whilst the general responsibilities will be shared, Mrs 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

1. Attendance and timings of the school day

Being on time is not only an essential life skill, but also something which has a huge impact on learning. Being on time to school provides a positive routine which sets students up for the day ahead and being on time for lessons allows teachers to maximise time available to help students learn. The school gates close at **8.40am** in order for students to be lined up in their tutor groups at **8.45am**.

2. Uniform and equipment

It is paramount that your child comes to school in the correct uniform, with the appropriate equipment. The uniform is comprehensive and we will not apologise for maintaining high standards of appearance. For a useful guide on what is acceptable and what is not, please follow this link.

[Uniform Restrictions September 2023-24.pdf](#)

Please note Mr Wright's communication in June 2023 regarding the updated guidance around skirts which is being phased in from September.

A reminder that all Spencer Academy Trust schools operate some entry level standards that are consistent across all of the schools. These will remain in place and include:

- 1) no jewellery is to be worn, with the exception of one stud in each earlobe. No visible necklaces, bracelets, rings or other piercings (including tongue piercings or those in the helix or tragus) will be allowed. Please note that clear piercings are not permitted.
- 2) students will only be permitted to wear 'subtle makeup' but will not be permitted to wear nail varnish or polish. In addition, no extreme or unnatural hair colouring or styles will be permitted.

These Spencer Academy Trust standards are non-negotiable, so please ensure you do not send your child to school with any prohibited items of jewellery or make up. Failure to meet the correct uniform standards will result in your child needing to be collected from school to rectify any issues.

It is essential that all students have the correct equipment so they are 'ready to learn.' Our minimum expectation is that all students will always have **blue/black pens, a red pen, a reading book, pencil, ruler, maths set and calculator**. In addition to this, all students must bring with them a **mini whiteboard and pen**, which they will be provided with at the start of the academic year. Should these need replacing, they can be purchased for a small fee from reception or on ParentPay. Students are also expected to carry this equipment in an appropriate school bag.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

We will be holding the Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday 1 February from 4pm-7pm, timed to follow your child's completion of their assessment week and to give you the opportunity to discuss their progress and gain a clear understanding of both their areas for development and the support on offer.

The parents' evening will also allow you to have conversations with teachers about potential GCSE pathways based on their predicted grades. Members of the inclusion team will also be available should you wish to discuss your child's progress with them.

Appointments will be available from 4pm until 7pm and can be booked online using our School Synergy platform. Appointments will go live on Monday 15 January. Please book appointments by Wednesday 24 January 2024, following the instructions below:-

- Log into Synergy (<https://heanorgate.schoolsynergy.co.uk>) and click the Parents' Evening tab in the top right corner.
- You should then be able to see a list of your child's subjects/teachers available for appointments. As you click on each of these, you will be given a list of available appointments for that teacher. Simply click on the time slot you would like and the appointment will be in the system.
- This can then be repeated for your child's other subjects.

Appointment locations will be split across three of our large spaces and you may find it useful to consider the location of staff when booking your appointments:-

Hall	Maths, English, Mrs Wainwright and Inclusion
New Gym	Humanities, DTVA, PEPA & Health and Social Care
Old Gym	Science, MFL, Computer Science and iMedia

If you need any help in making appointments or you cannot access Synergy, please contact synergysupport@heanorgatespencer.com.

Year 9 Pathways Process

The Pathways process will be launched with students in Assembly next week. Following on from this further correspondence will be sent home.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Barlow
Year 9 Achievement Leader



Mrs G Lynam



Mrs N Wainwright
Year 9 Assistant Achievement Leader