



March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. We are coming to the end of a short but very busy term for Year 8. There are many things our students have done well this term, and some areas to improve. I have been pleasantly surprised with the effort our students have shown during Ready to Read Week, where all Year 8 students approached the week with the correct attitude and engaged with our literacy focus for the first 10 minutes of each lesson.

Parents' Evening was a particular success, where despite the weather we had the vast majority of parents and carers for Year 8 in attendance discussing their progress, attainment and attitude. We also had Year 8 students successfully choose some of their options for Year 9 as they continue with their Key Stage 3 curriculum. It was pleasing to see so many students taking responsibility for their own learning and discussing their options with classroom teachers in a thoughtful and considerate manner.

Year 8 Graduation fundraising is in full-swing. All tutor groups are doing their best to ensure we raise as much money as possible so that Year 8 students can have a fun and activity-filled Graduation Celebration in June. When we return after the Easter break fundraising will be continuing, so I appreciate your support in discussing what your child is doing for Graduation fundraising with them.

Our aim is for all students to graduate and be proud of their Key Stage Three achievements. This will be based on attendance, behaviour and the ability to demonstrate our #TeamHeanor values which consist of:

- Respect
- Pride
- Unity
- Resilience
- Organisation
- Integrity

We encourage all students to engage with extra-curricular activities and experience a wide variety of experiences within school and in the community. Most students have started to build a successful portfolio in their booklets of the ways they show our school values and activities they do outside of school which contribute to their Graduation experience. Please support them in getting involved with as much as they can so that they can have the best chance to graduate.

Within lessons I have noticed that many students are achieving well and progressing as we expect. I believe that our Year 8 students are a talented and hard-working year group who can achieve the very best. In order for this to happen, I would like your assistance in reminding all students of two **lesson essentials**, elements of lesson behaviour that will help them progress and push their potential further and further:

1. LTRs are in silence - as they intend to improve memory and strengthen recall.
2. Don't be passive in lessons.

It is vital that school and home help our students understand that they cannot be passive in lessons. The example I use with students is that I want them to be driving their own learning, so they know where they are going rather than sitting being a passenger in a lesson, not in control of where their learning will take them.

Uniform and equipment

At Heanor Gate we pride ourselves on being prepared for school and looking extremely smart and ready to learn. It is paramount that your child comes to school in the correct uniform. 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](#) . If students need replacement ties these can be purchased on Parent Pay and collected from reception.

With the weather set to improve after the Easter break you may be looking to purchase a new skirt for your child. May we politely remind you that as of September all students will be required to wear a pleated skirt so you may wish to purchase a pleated skirt

now as opposed to any other style.

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. A reminder that clear piercings are no longer permitted.
- 2) students are permitted to wear 'subtle makeup' but are not permitted to wear nail varnish or polish. In addition, no extreme or unnatural hair colouring or styles are 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 rectify the issue.

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 a reading book, pen, 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. As we reach the final term of the academic year some of these items need replacing (predominantly white board pens). These 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.

Finally, a reminder that moving forward, all 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

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss or have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mr H Mann
Achievement Leader - Year 8



Miss L Weston
Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 8



ASPIRATION | PARTNERSHIP | RESPONSIBILITY

