



March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As the Easter holidays approach, we wanted to take a moment to wish you not only a fantastic break, but also to reflect on the progress Year 7 have made this term and to look ahead to some exciting upcoming events. It doesn't seem long since we last wrote to you back in January and to say that the last term has been flown by would be an understatement!

We have seen some great progress made by our Year 7 students and we are really proud of their achievements. Seeing them continue to embrace the #TeamHeanor values has been truly inspiring. We have been particularly pleased to see so many students graduating from their reading intervention groups having markedly improved their key skills.

Back in February, we were delighted by the turnout at parents' evening and I wanted to thank all of you who were able to attend. These kinds of events are so important in terms of reinforcing the link between staff, students and parents/carers. They have a hugely positive impact on your child's progress and development. Much of the data discussed on the evening came from the round of assessments that took place in February. For these assessments, it should be noted that our students worked really hard to do their best, demonstrating ample #Resilience, #Independence and #Integrity.

A real highlight of the term was the trip to Twycross Zoo, expertly organised by the Science Department. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to deepen their learning outside of the classroom, as well as spending time with their friends. We were delighted to hear the exceptionally positive feedback we received about the behaviour of our students during the trip.

Our final Immersion Day of the year takes place on Thursday 20 June and although it may feel a long way off yet, we already have exciting plans in place. Author Dave Cousins will speak to the students about his journey to becoming an author and explain how we all have a story to tell. We look forward to Dave sharing his dreams of joining the NASA space program and making comics in his bedroom, to eight years as a minor rock star—plus lots of reading and writing in between. Some of our students will also have the opportunity to work with Dave in a workshop session where they will focus on drawing stories from characters.

Later in the next term we have the Year 7 residential trip taking place week commencing 15 July. We will be sharing details about organising groupings for this nearer the time. This will be followed by our epic Trip Day on 22 July. Booking for Trip Day recently opened and the uptake has been excellent. With so many choices on offer there really is something for everyone to enjoy.

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. I https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zd9MA3yxA3A-CEhRLuyRS_2QFf6ibp2E/view. 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 are required to wear a pleated skirt so please 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:

- 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.
- 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.

We hope you take this opportunity to relax and recharge your batteries. Just don't eat too much chocolate!!

Yours sincerely



Mr Shaw

Year 7 Achievement Leader



Mrs Stewart

Year 7 Assistant Achievement Leader