



March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of a busy but short term, we wanted to acknowledge the hard work and progress we have seen across the year group. Year 9 had Immersion Day based in the DTVA department, creating pop art images. We were incredibly proud of the students and what they produced, alongside the outstanding comments we received about the way they conducted themselves throughout the day.

We have had weeks of mock exams, which have meant the students have needed to be silent moving around the site to show respect to students in the years about to embark upon GCSE and A level exams. Again, we have been proud of the way the students have done this, ahead of real exams beginning in a matter of weeks.

Mrs Lynam has launched our World Class Schools initiative, aiming to showcase just what our students are capable of everyday. This will earn an accreditation for the students and add to their growing list of achievements.

We have also seen the students make their first major decisions in their education with choosing their options for year 10 and 11. This has only been successful due to the students' engagement, as well as the mass parental support we have seen over the last few weeks. This term also saw students complete their second Ready to Read week, and engagement with new texts, books and poetry was seen across the school. The responsible and mature manner in which year 9 engaged with this is to be applauded, and we look forward to the last Ready to Read Week next term.

We have congratulated many students who have graduated from their Literacy Pathways groups, showing the determination of many students to develop their literacy skills. This is an amazing feat and will set them up for success in the coming years. Lastly, we saw a fantastic turn out for Parents' Evening, which was full of robust conversations around options, behaviour and attitude to learning. Thank you to all parents and carers who came and engaged with staff, showing support for your child and their education.

We hope the students have a well earned break, and return to school ready for the final academic term ahead of their GCSEs beginning.

### **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.

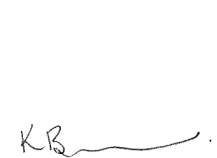
These Spencer Academy Trust standards are non-negotiable, so please ensure you do not send your child to school with any prohibited items of jewellery or make up. Failure to meet the correct uniform standards will result in your child needing to rectify the issue.

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](mailto:synergysupport@heanorgatespencer.com)

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

Yours sincerely



**Mrs K Barlow**  
**Achievement Leader - Year 9**



**Mrs G Lynam**  
**Achievement Leader - Year 9**



**Mrs N Wainwright**  
**Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 9**



ASPIRATION | PARTNERSHIP | RESPONSIBILITY

