



20 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your families are excited about the upcoming festive period. 2024 has been another amazing year for the academy and I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some successes and also update you with some key information for the upcoming term.

It has been a busy term and in line with our Team Heanor values, one which has brought me much pride. In November, we saw examination outcomes published for last year's cohorts and I am proud to announce that both our GCSE and A Level outcomes showed positive progress scores, demonstrating that our students outperformed national benchmarks for a third consecutive year. This term, to support our continued aspiration for excellence, we have had a focus on homework and consolidation across all year groups, in an attempt to support students to know more and remember more. This has seen a remarkable impact on students' readiness for, and performance in, internal assessments. I want to congratulate the students for their conscientious efforts and thank you as parents for your support at home, ensuring our young people are consolidating their learning cycle outside of the classroom.

Yet again, we have been recognised nationally for our amazing student attendance, which sits 2% above the national average and sees us ranked in the top 20% of schools nationally for the third year running. Once again, thank you to you as parents/carers for all of your efforts; much of the success with our amazing attendance is down to the fantastic relationships that exist between students, staff and yourself as families. Being in school as often as possible really does lay the foundations for students to achieve their full potential. Our community partnership work with Full Power Fitness also continues to grow, and new initiatives around breakfast 'wake up' clubs have really helped students get into school with positive attitudes and focus. Last week also saw our rewards concentrate on the Team Heanor value of resilience and it was lovely to invite the students who earned the most A points to a celebration breakfast.

This week, we have seen everyone come together to celebrate the festive spirit. On Monday, we held our annual academic awards celebration and it was a pleasure to welcome back students from last year to celebrate their amazing achievements. Yesterday, we raised over £1000 for 'Save The Children' with our annual christmas jumper appeal and our amazing catering staff served over 1000 christmas lunches to staff and students. Today we celebrated students' achievements in rewards assemblies and engaged in a great array of Christmas activities. Thank you also for your invaluable support with our food bank campaign to support Salcare in their work helping families who are struggling at such a difficult time.

Last week, we agreed in principle to the appointment of a contractor to progress the work on our new sixth form building. This is a hugely exciting project for our academy and one which will support all phases of the school, giving us state of the art spaces that everyone will benefit from. Following a meeting this week, I am confident that physical work on the building will commence in late January and so it is important that we all play our part in making the project as successful as possible. I will speak to students in the first weeks back but as parents please note:



- Parking on site will be limited as we will need to dedicate sufficient space for the construction workers. To ensure all staff can park on site, any sixth form students who drive to school will be unable to do so for the remainder of the academic year. We have arranged for a limited number of parking spaces to be made available at Dinky Dino's for the duration of the project.
- Heavy goods vehicles and construction traffic on site will be frequent and I would urge parents where possible to avoid parking on Kirkley Drive at the start and end of the school day. This will help to avoid congestion and ensure that students can leave the site safely. Where possible, it would be greatly appreciated if you could arrange for alternative spaces for pick ups and drop offs, with the Heanor Gate Industrial Estate being a logical destination.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Jones
Principal