



20 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the festive season, I am writing to reflect on what has been an excellent half term and inform you of key events happening in the half-term after Christmas.

This half term we have seen a number of students take part in swimming galas, football matches, table tennis competitions - and this is all just with school! We know there are also many students who partake in sports and activities outside of school. If you would like us to celebrate this, please get in touch as we would love to support our students' extra-curricular activities. We have also seen students grow and develop their independence, resilience and organisation skills as they have settled further into life at Heanor Gate.

Each year Heanor Gate Spencer Academy supports Salcare with a food bank drive at Christmas. I am so proud of the efforts students have gone to this year with their donations. Together, we are supporting an important local charity that supports so many in our community.

In our penultimate week, students were rewarded with double A-points for their resilience. At the end of a long first term, and the excitement building for our holiday, it has been fantastic to see so many A points awarded. Friday 13 December saw 10 students in year 7 rewarded for their resilience with a breakfast with Mr Jones and Mrs Britton, a much appreciated treat on a cold winter's morning.

On a festive note, Wednesday 18 December saw another amazing turn out for the Heanor Grinchmas party. A fitting celebration for a strong half term, and brilliant to see so many students enjoy themselves before the Christmas break. We were also excited to celebrate Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 19 December. Students were invited to wear their favourite Christmas jumper to school as part of the day's celebrations for a £1 donation. Additionally, students who have demonstrated excellent behaviour—achieving zero behaviour points—and maintained good attendance this term received a complimentary Christmas dinner as a token of our appreciation for their dedication and positive conduct.

As you are aware, good attendance is an essential part of helping your child to secure the very best results at school and, therefore, the very best opportunities later in life. I am very pleased to say that attendance for Year 7 continues to be well above the national average. I wish to thank you for all your efforts in ensuring your child has contributed to our excellent attendance this term. Recognition of excellent attendance and achievements took place as part of our celebration assemblies this week where students also received curriculum awards.

As ever our standards around uniform are high and as we prepare ourselves for the Christmas holidays and our return in January, may I take this opportunity to remind you that students are not permitted to wear false eyelashes, nose studs or tongue piercings. Clear studs are not permitted and if students wish to wear earrings, these should be single studs in the lobe of the ear. In addition students' hair should be of a natural colour, and no false nails or nail polish to be worn.

Equipment has been a constant battle with year 7 this term. Expectations are falling short of what they should bring in which includes: blue/black pens (please ensure more than one), red pen, ruler, pencil, rubber, scientific calculator, whiteboard and whiteboard pen as well as a full and correct PE kit. Each morning we are having to lend out pens, rulers and whiteboards. All students received a whiteboard in September, alongside a whiteboard pen. These are easily replaced by going to reception to buy stationery. We are seeing more students not replacing their lost or broken equipment, impacting the learning of students and the class when teaching has to stop to rectify this. Can you please ensure all equipment is replaced and correct ahead of the next term.

Homework

There has been a whole school drive on consolidation this term and on the whole students have engaged with these tasks well. The calendar for next half term can be found below.

 Homework Calendar - Year 7 2024/25

Next half term sees year 7 take on their first assessment week across all of their subjects. The week commencing 20 January will see two weeks of consolidation in preparation for their assessment week commencing 3 February. Students will be encouraged to revise outside of their lessons to prepare for the assessments, as this will inform the first formal report for the year group ahead of their first parents' evening of secondary school.

On behalf of the school, we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a restful holiday season.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Barlow

Achievement Leader - Year 7



Mrs K Preece

Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 7