



December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the festive season, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful achievements and events that have taken place this year in Year 8. So far, it has been a year filled with growth, learning, resilience, and community spirit.

Two key priorities for Year 8 have been building resilience and developing a deeper understanding of the importance of kindness. In terms of resilience, our students have shown strong progress in this area and we were particularly pleased to see so many of our students receiving all greens for resilience in their recent reports. Just recently we also had double A points for resilience and the top scorers were treated to a much deserved breakfast with Mr Jones. We know that resilience is a key quality which will help our students achieve their potential and this will continue to be a priority next term.

As for kindness, we have been delighted to see our students' contributions to the recent Salcare food bank appeal. It was particularly pleasing to see some students go the extra mile by making extra donations and personalising their boxes. This generosity and commitment to helping those in need will make a significant impact on our local community.

School trips always stand out as highlights in the school year and the Year 8 Humanities trip to the Black Country Living History Museum lived up to this. Our students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich history and culture of the region, enhancing their understanding of the industrial revolution and its impact on society. Their engagement and enthusiasm during the trip were truly impressive.

A key milestone that we are looking forward to is Year 8 Graduation and students have been working hard in preparation for this. We were particularly impressed with how well the students have contributed to the graduation fundraising efforts, using their creativity, teamwork, and dedication to raise money. They have also been reflecting on their achievements both inside and outside of the classroom while completing their graduation booklets and this has deepened their understanding of the importance of the #TeamHeanor values.

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 8 continues to be well above the national average and I wish to thank you for all your efforts in ensuring your child attends school. Recognition of excellent attendance and achievements took place as part of our celebration assembly this week where students received curriculum awards along with their attendance being celebrated.

As ever, our expectations around uniform remain high. As we start to think about our return in January, we would like 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 a small single stud in the lobe of the ear. In addition, students' hair should be of a natural colour and jumpers worn underneath blazers must also be the official, branded Heanor Gate ones. We would also like to remind parents and students that fizzy drinks are not permitted on school premises. We encourage healthy choices and appreciate your support in this matter.

There has been a whole school drive on consolidation this term and on the whole students have engaged with these tasks well. For those students who need support, there is a range of homework clubs on offer. The calendar for next half term can be found below:

 Homework Calendar - Year 8 2024/25

The events leading up to Christmas are a key part of what makes our school a special place to be and this year did not disappoint. The Grinchmas disco event was very well attended and it was great to see our students enjoying themselves together. The Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Activity Day were also a great success and provided our students a chance to build their sense of belonging. This is such an important part of school life as it enhances resilience, self-esteem and emotional wellbeing.

As we head into the holidays, we encourage all our students to take this time to rest and recharge. Spending quality time with family and friends is essential for their wellbeing. We hope they return to school in January feeling refreshed and ready to embrace new learning opportunities with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Shaw

Achievement Leader - Year 8



Mrs H Stewart

Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 8

