



13 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well ahead of our first school break of 2025. We have had an incredibly busy term filled with trips, assessments, sports competitions, house competitions as well as preparations for and the unveiling of the school show.

This half term we had the opportunity to visit Yorkshire Wildlife Park, organised by the science department, as part of our Immersion Day activities. It was no mean feat organising 242 students on and off of buses, ensuring they got the most out of the visit by encouraging them to read the information, take pictures and immerse themselves in a totally different environment. The students battled the British wind to showcase their #TeamHeanor attitude, as well as showing the public the best of Heanor Gate whilst we were there. This trip couldn't have been made a reality without the careful planning of Mrs Parkin and Miss Bown, and the students certainly did us all proud on the day. We also have had some incredible entries into our photo competition of the animals in the zoo - perhaps some budding wildlife photographers amongst us!

We have also seen students take part in the football county cup competition during this half term. Our boys and girls teams have both performed exceptionally well, with the girls through to the semi finals with a 5-0 win this week! We really love to celebrate students' successes in extra curricular activities, so please do get in contact if your child takes part in any activities outside of school you would like us to acknowledge.

Attendance has remained strong throughout this cold and dark term, with year 7 attendance sitting at over 95% since September. This is fantastic and a testament to the drive of the students in the year group, as well as the support you as parents and carers show.

During this half term we saw the first assessment week that year 7 students have engaged with since starting at Heanor Gate. We know this period can raise some worries in students, however the year group faced the week with grit and determination. A can-do attitude was seen across lessons, with effort being clear across the board in all subjects. Resilience is one of our #TeamHeanor values, and the year group has shown this in spades. I really hope you can celebrate these milestones with the students, and the results of this will form meaningful discussions at our upcoming parents' evening on Thursday 27 February.

On the back of assessment week, I was contacted by some parents concerned about the amount of homework being set in the consolidation fortnight ahead of their assessment week. This homework was set to prepare students for their assessment and consolidate their learning in lessons. To try and support students and keep parents informed of homework being set, please see the link below that will show you what subject is setting homework each week of the next half term. This will also help students be aware of what homework will be set each week and allow them to organise their time to ensure it is completed.

[Homework Calendar - Year 7 2024/25 - Google Docs](#)

As referenced in Mr Jones' communication, the first week back will see all students receive anti-knife crime assemblies delivered by Derbyshire Police.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Barlow
Achievement Leader - Year 7

Mrs K Preece
Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 7