



February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the half term holiday, I wanted to get in touch in order to reflect on our students' hard work and successes this half term, and also to signpost some important future events.

Despite some cold and gloomy weather, our students have shone in terms of their understanding of the #TeamHeanor values. Overall, since the start of term our students have achieved an impressive 12751 A points, which is more than any other year group. This half term we had a particular focus on Organisation as this is a key attribute that we know will help set our students up for success in the future.

Students have also worked hard on getting ready for Year 8 Graduation. As part of their preparations, students have been building up a portfolio of evidence linked to the #TeamHeanor values. A programme of support has been put in place for those students who need it and it has been inspiring to see how far many of our students have come on their journey. Year 8 Graduation will take place on Thursday 19 June 2025 and we will be in touch nearer the time with details about the ceremony and celebration event.

Our celebration assembly in the last week of term is always a highlight for staff and students alike. In this, we have an opportunity to celebrate students' exemplary behaviours and attitudes, as well as praising strong attendance. Immersion Day at the start of this month also stood out as a great day, with our students being inspired by a visiting author to learn about and write their own raps.

Year 8 students have also recently completed their next cycle of consolidation and assessments. For the most part our students rose to the challenge of the consolidation fortnight, demonstrating that they understand more and more the important role homework plays in reinforcing their learning and developing good study habits. I welcome your support in encouraging your child to complete homework tasks on time and to a high standard. For those students who may struggle, there are numerous homework clubs on offer in school where they can access extra support.

This cycle culminated in Year 8 Parents' evening which was very well attended and I wanted to thank you for this. The discussions that took place were a key part of the Year 8 Pathway process, about which I have communicated with you separately. As a reminder, please ensure that you have chosen your child's options and completed the form below by Friday 14 February:-

<https://forms.gle/74qoJi8DMQApkzKA>

Looking forward to next term, I am sharing the homework calendar for the next half term. I would like to point out that the homework for each subject should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

[Homework Calendar - Year 8 2024/25 - Google Docs](#)

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. Attendance forms a key part of our Team Heanor Value of organisation and its importance is something which is not lost on our students. We know that parental support is vital to achieving this excellent attendance and we also believe that outstanding attendance should be recognised and rewarded. This recognition took place as part of our celebration assemblies this week where students' attendance was celebrated. Students who achieve 100% attendance next half term will be put in a prize draw at the end of the year to receive a substantial prize.

I would like to thank you for supporting the school with maintaining the highest standards in terms of uniform. 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.

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

Should you have any questions regarding any of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at sshaw@heanorgatespencer.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Shaw
Achievement Leader - Year 8



Mrs H Stewart
Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 8