



4 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

As another busy school term draws to an end, I wanted to get in touch to reflect on our students' most recent successes, to share some key information for the term ahead and to point out some of the things that we have to look forward to. This has been a busy half term and I am sure our students are looking forward to a well earned two weeks off over Easter!

Back in January, our students showed an excellent level of maturity and focus as they began their most recent round of assessments. The significant progress that so many students made was underpinned by the hardwork and effort that they put beforehand. Of course this covers what they did in lessons, but also the consolidation and homework tasks that they completed outside of class. I would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for the support you give your children in getting their homework done on time and to a high standard as this sets them up for success in the classroom. For those students who might need support with their homework or who just want to focus on getting homework done in school, the homework club running in T Block on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays is a great option. Many individual faculties also offer their own, subject specific clubs. Below is the link to the consolidation calendar for the next term for Year 8:

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

At the end of the assessment period, we had our Y8 parents' evening and as always we were delighted with the high level of attendance from parents and carers. The supportive relationship between school and home is something that has a hugely positive impact on our students' progress and wellbeing, so please accept my heartfelt thanks for the role you play in this..

We have recently had a focus on building integrity, which is one of our #TeamHeanor values. Our students have shown strong progress in this area, notably in the Year 8 pathways process in which students were able to make some choices about what they will be studying in Year 9 and beyond. It was great to see the mature way in which our students discussed these options. Just recently we also had a week of double A points for integrity and the top scorers were treated to a much deserved breakfast with Mr Jones.

We celebrated even more students in our end of term assembly in the final week of term. This is always a real highlight for staff and students as we get a chance to publicly recognise and reward those students who stand out as role models to others. Prizes were given to students who receive nominations from their subject teachers and also for those who excel at demonstrating the #TeamHeanor values. We are always so proud to share in these success stories.

Recently, we have shared with students and parents the procedure of our lockdown policy. As part of this, we carried out a lockdown drill. These kinds of drills are essential as they allow us to prepare effectively for any potential future emergencies, to enhance safety awareness among our students and to reduce any possible anxiety through building consistent routines. Our students performed very well in this drill and again showed good levels of maturity.



A key milestone that we are looking forward to is Year 8 Graduation and students have continued to work hard in preparation for this. In tutor time, they have been building a portfolio of evidence to show how they have embraced the #TeamHeanor values. This has involved them reflecting on their achievements, both inside and outside of school. The other key criteria for graduation are attendance and the number of A and B points. A programme of support has been in place to help some students who may have been struggling. I would like to remind you that for those students who meet the criteria, the graduation ceremonies will be taking place on Thursday 19 June. We will be in touch about this next half term with further details..

As ever, our expectations around uniform remain high and recently we have been focusing on ensuring that students keep their shirts tucked in. By getting this right, students demonstrate the #TeamHeanor value of pride and this helps to reinforce their sense of being part of our community. I would like to remind everyone that if students wish to wear earrings, these should be a small single stud in the lobe of the ear. Students are not permitted to wear false eyelashes, nose studs or tongue piercings. Clear studs are not permitted and will need to be removed if worn. In addition, students' hair should be of a natural colour and jumpers worn underneath blazers must also be the official, branded Heanor Gate jumper. 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.

Good attendance is crucial in helping your child to achieve the very best at school, opening doors to greater opportunities in the future. It also reflects our Team Heanor Value of Organisation, an idea which our students embrace. I am delighted to share that our students' strong attendance has placed us in the top 25% of schools nationally, giving them a significant advantage over many of their peers across the country. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and benefits from this excellent foundation for success.

Heading into the Easter holidays, we hope all our students take some time to rest and recharge their batteries. We hope they return to school feeling refreshed and ready to embrace new learning opportunities with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

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