



18 June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to share the news that Heanor Gate Spencer Academy has been shortlisted in the Top 10 Finalists of the World's Best School Prizes 2025 in the Community Collaboration Prize category. We have been selected from thousands of applications from schools in 100 countries worldwide. For interest, here is the article published in the local media this morning:

[Derbyshire school shortlisted for global award - BBC News.](#)



The World's Best School Prizes, an initiative from [T4 Education](#), are amongst the world's most prestigious education prizes. These prizes were established in the wake of COVID in 2022 to give a platform to schools that are transforming lives in their classrooms and beyond, showcasing their best practices to help improve standards of education everywhere.

This nomination recognises the fact that wellbeing, employability, and emotional literacy are embedded into our curriculum, supporting significant improvements in student engagement, behaviour, and academic outcomes - especially among our most vulnerable learners. Our initiatives empower students far beyond the classroom. Partnerships with FullPower Fitness offer activities that promote resilience, self-esteem, and wellbeing, helping reduce anti-social behaviour and improve academic performance. Student-led projects with local care homes and charities like Salcare build leadership and purpose, reinforcing our core value of Unity. These experiences help students develop the confidence and skills they need to thrive.

As well as the Community Collaboration Prize, there is also a Community Choice Award, which is awarded through a public voting system. We would be incredibly grateful if you could show your support by voting for us using this link: <http://vote.worldsbestschool.org/>. Voting closes on 9 July.

The winners of the awards will be announced in October.

CEO of the Spencer Academies Trust, Paul West, said that *"Heanor Gate Spencer Academy exemplifies what it means to be a true community school. In one of the UK's most economically challenged areas, the academy has created a beacon of hope - redefining education through compassion, connection, and courage. By embedding emotional literacy, employability, and local partnerships into its curriculum, the school not only raises aspirations but tangibly transforms lives. Its students are empowered as changemakers—supporting food banks, elderly residents, and each other - instilling a deep sense of unity and purpose. This nomination recognises a school that doesn't just educate - it heals, uplifts, and leads its community toward a stronger future."*

I am truly honoured that our exceptional school has been shortlisted for this prize. At Heanor Gate Spencer Academy, our Team Heanor ethos is not merely a mantra - it is a guiding principle embraced wholeheartedly by every member of our school and wider community.

Our unwavering, shared vision - to provide every student and family with the very best opportunities, outcomes, and experiences - is a source of immense pride. At the heart of our academy lie deep-rooted relationships, which underpin the culture of trust, ambition, and mutual respect that defines our community. Whether in the classroom or in the community, the collective dedication, support, and shared aspiration of our students, staff, families, and partners make Heanor Gate an extraordinary place to learn, work, and thrive.



To see our work commended on a global platform fills me with profound joy. The recognition within this nomination is a testament to the unified efforts of every student, colleague, parent, and community member, and it is a moment of celebration for us all.

Thanks as always for your unbelievable support.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Jones'.

Mr M Jones
Principal