



January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you in good health and that you had a restful and enjoyable holiday break. With the new year now underway, I would like to take a moment to outline some key information for the term ahead.

Consolidation and Assessment Week

The weeks commencing **Monday 5 January and Monday 12 January** are the next consolidation weeks, followed by the assessment week beginning on **Monday 19 January**. During the consolidation week, staff will set additional homework and revision tasks to support students' preparation for the assessments. Students should refer to Google Classroom as usual for all consolidation activities. A reminder about how much work they should expect to be completing can be found on the consolidation calendar, the link for which is below:

[Homework Calendar - Year 8 2025/26](#)

We know that active preparation for these assessments not only enhances your child's performance but also helps establish valuable study habits for the future. Independent learning at home forms a vital foundation for GCSE success, and developing these habits in Year 8 will significantly support and accelerate your child's progress. The assessment outcomes will also enable us to identify strengths and any areas where further support may be needed, as well as inform decisions about pathways in Year 9.

Parents' Evening

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Thursday 5 February 2026 - 4pm-7pm

Year 8 Parents' Evening will be held on Thursday 5 February from 4pm until 7pm. This event is an essential opportunity for us to get together and discuss your child's progress, achievements and any areas for development. We highly value the partnership between school and parents/carers and we recognise the positive impact an event like this can have on your child's progress and development.

During the evening you will have the chance to meet with your child's subject teachers individually, allowing for insightful conversations about their academic performance, identifying both areas of strength and areas where additional support may be beneficial. You will also have the chance to find out more about how your child works in class, to talk through their recent assessment results and to ask their teachers any questions. Members of the inclusion team will also be available should you wish to discuss support for any additional needs that your child may have.

Appointments will be available from 4pm until 7pm and can be booked online using the Arbor platform. Appointments will go live on **Friday 9 January**. Please book appointments by **Friday 16 January**, following the instructions below:

- Log into the Arbor app or Arbor website and scroll down to Parent Consultations.
- You should then be able to see a list of your child's subjects/teachers available for appointments. As you click on each of these, you will be given a list of available appointments for that teacher. Simply click on the time slot you would like and the appointment will be in the system.
- This can then be repeated for your child's other subjects.

Appointment locations will be split across three of our large spaces and you may find it useful to consider the location of staff when booking your appointments:-

Parents' Evening Locations

Hall	Maths, English, Mrs Barlow, Mrs Preece and Inclusion
New Gym	Humanities, DTVA, PEPA
Old Gym	Science, Computing
Drama Room	MFL

If you need any help in making appointments or you cannot access Arbor, please contact info@heanorgatespencer.org.uk

Standards and Expectations

We remain firmly committed to upholding high standards of behaviour, conduct, and academic engagement throughout the school. To support an effective learning environment, it is essential that students attend school punctually each day, prepared to participate positively and respectfully in all aspects of school life. A key part of this readiness is ensuring that students arrive with the full set of required equipment, including blue or black pens, red pens, pencil, ruler, rubber, reading book and calculator. A full PE is also part of the expected equipment for students to fully engage in their PE lessons. Being properly equipped enables students to take an active role in their learning and prevents unnecessary disruption to the progress of the class. We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing these expectations, as a consistent partnership between home and school is vital in promoting the highest standards for all students. In addition, we expect all students to adhere to the school's uniform policy at all times. Wearing the correct uniform, smartly and consistently, promotes a sense of pride, equality, and readiness for learning. If you have any questions or are struggling with providing the expected equipment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Barlow
Achievement Leader - Year 8