



January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had a restful break over the holidays. At the start of this new year, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important information for the next term.

Consolidation and Assessment Week

The week commencing **Monday 5 January** is the next consolidation week, followed by the assessment week beginning on **Monday 12 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 assessment calendar, the link for which is below:

[Homework Calendar - Year 9 2025/26 - Google Docs](#)

We know that preparing actively for the assessment will not only increase your child's performance, but also help set in place important study habits for the future. Independent learning at home is a crucial foundation for GCSE studies and we know that developing good study habits in Year 9 will accelerate your child's progress. The outcomes of the assessments will also help us identify both strengths and areas where further support may be needed, as well as informing decisions about pathways into Year 10.

Year 9 Parents' Evening

We will be holding our Year 9 Parents' Evening on **Thursday 29 January from 4pm-7pm**. This event is timed to follow the completion of the assessment week. It will give you a key opportunity to discuss their progress and to gain a clear understanding of both their areas for development and the support on offer.

The parents' evening will also allow you to have essential conversations with teachers about potential GCSE pathways based on their predicted grades. Members of the inclusion team will be available should you wish to discuss your child's progress with them.

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 and English
New Gym	Humanities, DTVA and PEPA
Old Gym	Science and Computing
Drama Studio	MFL, Mr Shaw and Mrs Stewart

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

Year 9 Pathways Process

Vice-Principal Mr Graham has already written to you to launch the Pathways Process which will involve students choosing the subjects they wish to study in Year 10 and beyond.

Students will have a launch assembly to explain the way how the process will work and next week we will launch a dedicated virtual Pathways website. This site will include a short presentation, videos, and detailed information about the process and the subjects available. We will notify you when the website goes live.

From **Monday 2 February**, each student will have an interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or the Y9 Achievement Team. These conversations will provide tailored advice based on the student's interests, abilities, and future aspirations. Your support in discussing these choices at home will be invaluable.

After their interview, students will bring home a Pathways form outlining our recommended subject choices. You will then be asked to confirm your child's final choices via an online form, which will be shared on **Friday 6 February**. The deadline for submission is **Friday 13 February**. Students will receive confirmation of their final Pathways selections the week beginning 16 March 2026:

School Photos

Individual portraits for Year 9 will be on **Wednesday 11 February** at 8.45am.

Attendance and Uniform

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. Unlike some primary schools, we do not have requirements for students to be 48 clear of sickness before returning to school. Therefore, students should return as soon as they are well enough so as to minimise the potential for missed learning when absence due to illness occurs. As always, we appreciate your support maintaining excellent attendance.

Our expectations around uniform remain high. I would like 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 a small single stud in the lobe of the ear. In addition, students' hair should be of a natural colour. Jumpers worn underneath blazers must also be the official, branded Heanor Gate ones. Furthermore, students are expected to bring their full PE on the days when they have this lesson.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2026.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Shaw

Achievement Leader - Year 9



Mrs H Stewart

Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 9