



March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of a busy and productive half term, I am writing to reflect on the progress our students have made in recent weeks and to share key information as we look ahead to the next stage of the school year.

Year 9 Pathways

The Year 9 Pathways process has been a key priority for this year, so it's important for us to reflect on the hard work and diligence that ensured that it was successful. I want to thank all of our students for their mature approach to the whole process, which saw them engage so well with the preparation sessions and their SLT interview. I must also pass on my thanks to parents and carers who ensured that their child had the chance to discuss their options and who ensured that the online form was completed promptly. This has meant all of our students have been allocated the courses they wanted and we are already busy preparing the timetable for Year 10. This was an important milestone for our year group and it aligns perfectly with the concept of our students taking responsibility for writing their own futures.

Rewards and Celebration

We firmly believe in the importance of clearly communicating and celebrating the positive behaviours we want students to adopt. This is something we do with our regular Student of The Week nominations, as well as our Tutor Group of The Week competition. Both of these are shared weekly in assembly and it has been great to see so many students get the praise they so rightly deserve.

This half term began and ended with celebration events. In the first week we hosted a celebration breakfast for those students who achieved all greens for their attitude to learning on their most recent report. In the final week, we celebrated double A Points for Integrity and also held our termly Celebration Assembly with prizes awarded for subject stars, for the #TeamHeanor Values and for attendance. We have also relaunched the Rewards Catalogue for this year, which is an important aspect of our school culture as it allows students to cash in their well-earned A Points and convert them into something tangible.

Trip Day

One of the things that makes Heanor Gate Spencer Academy really special is trip day and this was recently launched for 2026. There has been a real buzz about this and I know that our students are looking forward to this as a reward for all of their hard work this year. Trips are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and I know that some are already full. However, there is always plenty of space available on a wide range of trips, so there really is something for everyone. We hope to see as many of our students as possible getting involved, but there will always be fun activities on offer in school for those who don't sign up.

Uniform and equipment

As ever, our expectations around uniform remain high. By wearing our uniform with pride, students demonstrate the #TeamHeanor values of Pride and Unity and this in turn builds a sense of belonging. 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. False or painted nails are not permitted and to ensure that students look as smart as possible, shirts must be tucked in.

As a whole, students have been very good at attending school with the correct equipment and this has been something we have focused on in tutor time. We are glad to have seen this improve so much as it shows that students are forming the habits of responsibility and independence that will set them up for future success. On the other hand, it is important that all students bring a calculator and a reading book to school as these are also part of the essential equipment list and this is an area for improvement. For those needing replacement calculators, these can be ordered through ParentPay, and the library is well stocked with books.

Below, I am sharing the homework and extra-curricular calendar for the next half term.

 Homework Calendar - Year 9 2025/26

 Extra Curricular.png

Finally, we would like to wish you all an enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Shaw

Achievement Leader - Year 9



Mrs H Stewart

Assistant Achievement Leader - Year 9