



11 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: 'Learning@Heanor Gate'

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for their continued support, especially around ensuring our students return to school equipped and ready to learn.

Students have made an exceptional start to the new term, demonstrating the high standards we expect across the academy. It has been fantastic to see students arriving in full uniform and with the correct equipment every day. Their exemplary approach has ensured they are well prepared for learning and has set them up for success from the very beginning of the year.

We have also welcomed a number of new students to the academy. It has been wonderful to see our existing students showing kindness, respect and support as they help their new peers settle into academy life. The warm welcome they have provided reflects the strong sense of community within our academy, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity and compassion they have shown.

We continue our collective journey together striving for the best possible progress for each and every student throughout this new academic year, in what will be a very rewarding year for them- but no doubt demanding.

What to expect from the 'Learning@Heanor Gate' presentation

In line with our values of aspiration and achievement, we know that parents will want to know how they can support their child as we face the new school year together. In order to do this, we will be offering parents/carers year group-specific advice and guidance which will cover the following areas:

- a. Dates of key assessments and guidance around how you can help your child in preparing for these
- b. Supporting with homework
- c. A summary of how parents can support their child's progress both personally and academically
- d. An overview of what your child will be covering in their core subjects
- e. Subject-specific guidance about how to support your child's progress
- f. How to use Arbor pay (replacing parent pay)
- g. Other key events and dates to be aware of during the coming academic year

If you have any further questions which you feel have not been addressed in the above areas please contact the achievement team.

The learning @ virtual event can be found at :[Y8 Learning @ Video 2026-20260908_211203-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

Key information around the curriculum and specific subjects can be found here:

[Curriculum – Heanor Gate Spencer Academy](#)

Please also find attached the homework calendar for this term below:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wu9OT7IHMq9wR3RqvUqCZw0wue05C-uM/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=105269826777099377187&rtpof=true&sd=true

Finally, it has come to our attention that some students who receive free school meals are spending their daily allowance during break time, which subsequently leaves them without sufficient funds for a full meal at lunch time. To ensure that your child can make the most of their entitlement, we kindly ask that you remind them of the importance of managing their allowance across the day. It may be advisable to provide a snack from home for your child to eat at break time, should you wish for them to preserve their allowance to purchase a full meal at lunch time.

Please note that for any questions not relating to the above, or for any urgent enquiries, please contact the school in the usual way. The joint efforts of our students, staff and parents/carers will be crucial in making sure this year is a success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L Hulland', with a decorative flourish underneath.

Mrs L Hulland
Year 8 Achievement Leader