



27 April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to be able to share with you the report from our recent Ofsted inspection. Although the inspection took place on the 10 & 11 March the recent events due to coronavirus have delayed its release. Ofsted are not publishing reports on their website until schools reopen but we are free to share this with our community.

This report represents the best outcome possible under what was a Section 8 inspection, designed to check a good school is still good. **It concluded that there was sufficient evidence that the school could be judged outstanding in a subsequent inspection.** This two-day inspection included a thorough exploration of safeguarding, behaviour and bullying, the wider curriculum, staff workload and the quality of education as evidenced by 'Deep Dives' over five subjects.

Following a five-year journey of significant improvement, we knew the College was in a strong position. However, this report and the verbal feedback that was given at the time is glowing. It is a real testament to the quality of education in depth at the College. Recognising the curriculum as innovative and ambitious, it reflects the talent and expertise of our staff in designing and implementing learning in all subjects which enables all our students to excel. The impact of learning outside the classroom and beyond examination classes is also highlighted as particularly enriching.

I am delighted that the superb work of our pastoral staff is emphasised as a strength of the school. Student wellbeing and the development of articulate, confident young people, who can thrive and succeed in the world is of paramount importance to us. I am very pleased this was recognised by inspectors in what they saw and heard in College, as well as the feedback they received.

More than anything, to me this report represents the powerful community that is Heathfield; students who are keen to learn and thrive in their environment, positive families who are a supportive and dynamic influence; support staff who enable the college to function smoothly and efficiently, as well as the teachers and staff who work tirelessly for the development of the young people in our care. It describes and acknowledges all of us.



I would also like to thank the governors and the local authority for their support and guidance in enabling the school to develop over the last five years. The combination of trust and challenge has enabled leaders to drive the necessary improvements.

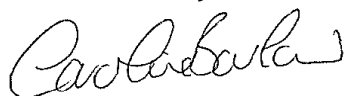
As described in the report the next step will be a further full (Section 5) inspection in the next one to two years. It will be this additional inspection which could facilitate a change of the school's official grading.

Ofsted judgements represent a snapshot in time. We know we are not perfect and we know we can improve still further; it is what drives us. However, it is validating that an objective external body has recognised the exceptional component strengths of which I am so proud.

I hope you enjoy reading the report and recognise in it the College you know and of which you are a valuable part.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Barlow', written in a cursive style.

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher