

10 July 2017
BLW/cab

Dear Parents/Carers

PARENTAL VOLUNTARY DONATION

As you may be aware, last year we set up the facility for parents to make a one off annual donation to support the College in the provision of the extra “nice to have” but unfunded opportunities that our students benefit from as part of their wider experiences at Heathfield.

Given the national context around school funding it is important that I am clear this does not in any way represent a support for the basic provision or staffing of the College. These funds would be ring-fenced and accountable to Governors to ensure they are specifically for student benefit. Indeed, this year we have published on a rolling basis the additional opportunities the students have been afforded as a result of the donations received this time last year.

Voluntary Donations in 2016-17 enabled Heathfield students to enjoy:

Student Leadership (£1,300)

We have training materials for all Leadership roles. They are all working through leadership programmes with set criteria and will receive badges of Bronze, Silver and Gold awards when they have achieved each standard in the end of term assembly.

The newly elected House Prefects will have a day of bespoke leadership training to prepare them for their roles, tailored from national level training materials and delivered by the Headteacher and Senior Leaders.

Social Time Activities and End of Term/Year Rewards (£1,500)

We have purchased board games and short films as recommended by the School Council for use in wet weather lunchtimes. These have been used in both cold and wet weather. This fund also supports the activities on the last day for the winning House.

Duke of Edinburgh (£200)

We have piloted a small group to take Bronze Duke of Edinburgh and ensured staff have appropriate training to make sure it is sustainable before widening the opportunity to more students in 2017-18.

Inspirational Speakers (£1,500)

Year 11 enjoyed the inspiration and impact of Mr Beezy who set them up for their mocks in the Autumn Term but has also continued to send them motivational messages and encouragement up to their GCSEs this summer.

In the next few weeks the College will benefit from the presence of Rich Buck a British 400m Sprinter who has competed at National, European and Olympic level, most recently in the 2012 London Olympic 400m x 4 relay team. Rich will work all day with different groups of students on motivation and aspiration before speaking at our Honours Awards evening.

Our ability to continue to provide these kind of extra enhanced experience is dependent on the donations we receive. We are grateful to all those who donated when we made the request last summer. As parents already know all too clearly, the funding per-pupil has fallen in real terms since 2010 and so in focusing our resources on staffing, teaching and learning our ability to provide these kinds of extras from core school budgets is diminished.

In 2017-18 we want to be able to continue these and offer new opportunities such as:

- Support for visiting speakers to inspire and motivate students of all year groups.
- Continued support for student leadership opportunities.
- Equipment to enhance the development of a new outside social space with benching, coverings and speakers.

We therefore invite a voluntary parental donation of a minimum but not limited to £25 per family in order to allow us to continue to provide additional beneficial student benefits.

Payment would be through the normal school payment mechanism on [School Gateway](#). Assuming a reasonable level of support amongst parents and carers, alongside work that we intend to do to reach out to local businesses, we believe a minimum donation of this level would provide sufficient funds to deliver the list of improvements outlined above.

We do understand that our current economic climate hits all families and we continue to find ways to ensure that the costs of schooling are managed and equitable, ensuring no student is denied their entitlement. **No students will be disadvantaged if as a family you decide it is not possible to contribute.**

The payment option for this donation is available now on [School Gateway](#). If you are able to find the means to support the College in this way, we would really appreciate it.

If you would like to contribute more than the £25 or if you run a local business and would like to know how you could contribute please do get in touch as we would hugely value the additional opportunities it would allow us to provide for students, please email financeoffice@heathfieldcc.co.uk or telephone 01435 866066 Ext 1260 or 1245.

Thank you for your on-going support. We appreciate it all and look forward to working with you supporting us in going from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher