



25 September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we settle into the rhythm of the term, we felt it would be valuable to highlight a few reminders that will help College continue to run smoothly. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank both the students and you as parents and carers for the way in which everyone has supported our collective endeavors to get back to work and learning.

Break and Lunch

Students have worked brilliantly to move to the arrangements which allow us to open up the canteen more and access different serveries for their lunch. We have extended the menu further for next week which I include with this letter.

We are delighted to announce that thanks to a local company, we have been able to secure an additional outside servery which will enhance speed of access for all students. This will arrive next week and we hope will swiftly be in operation. This may enable us to move towards opening a break service in the near future once we have evaluated the appropriate risk assessments associated.

As we have moved into more autumnal weather this week, students have coped well with moving to their wet weather locations when necessary. Whilst we will use this provision when needed, we have been clear that they must bring a coat to school for days when light rain or cold is forecast. We will be seeking to keep them outside where at all reasonable both for their own health and well-being and as part of our Covid secure mitigations.

Face Coverings

Despite the recent announcements from the government making face coverings mandatory in many locations, this is still not the case in schools unless there are additional restrictions in place. However, there is very clear guidance from the government that: *“You should also wear a face covering in indoor places not listed here where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.”*

I can share that 10% of our staff have required risk assessment support due to their own circumstances or health conditions. Whilst we are clear that staff should remain 2m distance from students unless there is mitigating protection, there is a requirement for



all of our community to play their part in taking care of each other. We accept some students have reasons why they cannot wear a mask, for everyone else we strongly recommend that they be worn in crowded areas. The vast majority of students are fantastic and do follow the recommendation but a small number of students do have masks provided by parents but are either reluctant to wear them or have to have them replaced every day due to losing them.

Can we ask that unless you have a reason for your son/daughter to not wear one or you are fundamentally opposed to them unless mandatory, please encourage your son/daughter to follow this recommendation.

Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

We know that both staff and students wish to proceed with the normal enriching activities that they enjoy. We also wish to ensure that they are able to access the full broad curriculum that is a defining feature of life at Heathfield. Please be patient with us as we plan for these to open up under the restricted guidance involving space, numbers and bubbles.

Sickness and Absence

I attach a letter which the Department of Education has asked us to forward onto you. I am also aware that East Sussex have issued guidance on sickness advice <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/backtoschool/parent-tips/> which signposts the Public Health guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection> and will be followed up further next week. If you are at all in doubt please contact your year group Pastoral Manager.

If your child is absent from College due to sickness please remember that you must contact the College every day that your child is off to avoid receiving a phone call. Please use the attendance email address to do this: attendance@heathfieldcc.co.uk

Open Evening

As we are unable to hold our usual annual Open Evening event for Year 6 students and their families we are planning to hold a series of virtual events and presentations over the next few weeks. Your son/daughter may be involved in these activities; we are very grateful for your support and positivity for the College across your wider networks which ultimately benefit all students.

Thank you as always for your continued and constructive support.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher