



14 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This letter contains information relating to changes in government guidance on Covid restrictions as well as general information that relates to all parents and students.

POSITIVE LATERAL FLOW TEST

We have been made aware of a confirmed positive Lateral Flow home test (COVID-19) for a student in Year 10 attending Heathfield Community College. The children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have been identified and parents have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days unless the resulting PCR test overrules this.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. Please see the linked guidance for what to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19: https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=2092035. Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

CHANGES TO GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

As you will be aware, on 11 May the Government updated the next steps in the roadmap out of Covid restrictions. We have considered our current restrictions in College and adjusted to reflect the updated guidance.

Face Coverings: From Monday 17 May face coverings will no longer be recommended for students in classrooms or communal areas in all schools, and for staff in classrooms.

We are aware that for some this will not be the preferred position and we remain clear that should students wish to, they retain the right to wear face coverings in classrooms or corridors. They have been fantastic at wearing them up until now and they will not be told to remove them if they choose to continue.

Students must continue to wear their masks on buses. This is clear in the guidance and we will be checking it is continued.

Face coverings should continue to be worn by staff and visitors in situations outside classrooms where social distancing is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas).

We do need to be clear that the full reintroduction of face coverings for students and staff may be advised in response to particular localised outbreaks, either within



Distinguished School



College or the locality, including variants of concern. Therefore, it would be advisable for all students to continue to be equipped with masks as they may be needed at short notice.

Mitigation and Safety Controls: The virus is still amongst us. It is vital that everyone within the College still acts in a way that keeps them and others as safe as possible. The following will remain in place as part of our safety controls:

- Social bubbles (separate social spaces and eateries)
- One-way systems with increased travel space outside
- Ventilation in classrooms
- Regular hand washing and additional sanitising in classrooms
- Regular and frequent cleaning of used spaces

Many staff have not had their vaccinations. Some staff and students will be understandably anxious, we expect mutual respect and consideration, along with complete adherence to the guidance. Please contact us if you are worried about your child's wellbeing.

As part of our continued vigilance the following measures also remain in place:

- Virtual assemblies and no large indoor gatherings
- Extra-curricular clubs as currently organised with consistent groupings
- All trips and events will operate as currently planned. It is too late notice and too restrictive on current guidance to re-introduce residential elements for this term. We will however take this into consideration in planning for the next academic year

LFD testing: This is a key part of safety controls and it is important that all members of our community who can, are remembering to test and report their results twice weekly to the NHS site, alerting the College to a positive result using C19attendance@heathfieldcc.co.uk.

HEADLINES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Below we include a selection of the activities that have been enjoyed at College over the last fortnight:

Reading Award Winners: Read about the success of our reading programme and the huge amount of reading that Year 7-9 have completed even throughout the pandemic as well as how we support the importance of a wide vocabulary.

<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?p=2264532>

Maths Challenge Success: Despite lockdown our students have continued to progress their Maths skills, enjoying and responding well to the challenge of this competition at Junior, Intermediate and Senior Levels: <https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?p=2266458>.

Mental Health Awareness Week: Our resources are extended even further as we mark this week and move into a summer term with a focus on mindfulness for students and extra provision for parents to match: <https://heathfieldcc.fireflycloud.net/parents-1>.

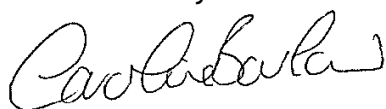
Launch of College Facebook Page: Read updates of news from the College via our refreshed Facebook page where we will post news and events as they happen each week. Please follow and share. <https://www.facebook.com/Heathfield-Community-College-224757737673118/>

A Reminder of Key Dates Ahead

Monday 17 May	Yr 8 HPV (Vaccine 1) & Yr 9 HPV (Vaccine 2)	
Week beginning 24 May	Super Curricular Fortnight (Week 1)	
Thursday 27 May	Yr 12 Virtual Parent/Student Feedback Evening	16:30-19:30
Friday 28 May	Last day of Term 5	
Week beginning 7 June	Super Curricular Fortnight (Week 2)	
Monday 7 June	INSET Day	
Tuesday 8 June	Start of Term 6	

Many thanks as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher