



10 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you with a final week of term remaining. This letter will contain some information regarding the arrangements for the end of term as well as an indication of details for January. Your help has been invaluable this term already and we really appreciate all that you have done. We will try to make details as clear as possible and thank you both now and in advance for your support in ensuring arrangements are as smooth as possible for the students.

End of Term 2

The details for the end of term were set out in a previous letter from Mr Pooley and we would urge all to note:

- Christmas lunch - Wednesday 15 December
- Christmas Carol Concert - Thursday 16 December
- Timings for the last day of term in the linked letter. (available here: <https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Christmas-Arrangements-at-Heathfield-December-2021.pdf>)

Headlines will be issued next week as normal with details of range of activities, achievements and opportunities students have enjoyed throughout Term 2 in the taught and wider curriculum. It will also contain recommendations for reading for the holidays.

As you will be aware the government has moved to a national Plan B position and as such we have received updated guidance from the DfE. There are no immediate changes to current practice at Heathfield Community College in that:

- Attendance remains mandatory unless isolating following a positive test.
- Masks are to be worn in communal areas and on school transport.
- Twice weekly testing remains important

If the guidance changes we will of course inform you as soon as possible.

Carol Concert

I was hoping that I would be able to invite you to our end of term Christmas Carol Concert at the College but in light of the national changes we have made the difficult decision to have a virtual event to avoid any risk of anyone in our community having to



Distinguished
School



isolate over this festive season. The concert will be about an hour in length and available to stream, via a shared link, on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 December between 4.00 - 7.00pm.

The link can be obtained via [School Gateway](#) where we are asking for a small minimum donation of £3 which will be available up to and including Wednesday 15 December 2021. All monies raised from contributions will be re-invested into the Music Department. *Please do support our students and click to view their Carol Concert.*

Start to Term 3 (January 2022)

As you may be aware schools have been required to provide Lateral Flow Testing for all students following the Christmas holidays and as such the return to school will be staggered.

Details for the year groups affecting your child are attached with this letter but in summary the process will follow a pattern very similar to September with each year group returning to lessons the following day as long as the test is negative.

- Tuesday 4 January - Sixth Form and Year 7
- Wednesday 5 January - Year 11 and Year 10
- Thursday 6 January- Year 8 and Year 9
- Friday 7 January - All students return to full lessons

I would also draw your attention to the continuing focus on uniform and standards as iterated by Mr Pooley's letter. We are very appreciative of the effort parents are making to ensure students are equipped with the right uniform, we will continue to do our best to support you in ensuring it is upheld consistently at College.

Other News and Achievements

Transport and Road Safety

I have been working recently on updating our Travel Plan and I hugely appreciate the feedback from some parents regarding their concerns about safety on the local roads, particularly the A265. This is a matter of considerable concern to me and one I have been lobbying about for a number of years. My concerns only grow as the College grows. I will be in touch with parents in the New Year to try and identify the views of our community and the direction our concerns should take going forward, thank you in advance for your engagement.

Mock Exams

I was pleased to be able to share with Year 11 this week the outcomes of their first round of Mock Exams. The provisional outcomes put them in a great position for success in the summer as a year group. Year 13 will start their mocks in January in the first week back.

There is a long way to go yet and as we explained to the students, Mocks are just one step of the journey - mostly valuable for telling us what we know and what we don't know and whether our revision methods are effective. Much more advice and guidance will follow over the coming months as we work towards the final outcomes. Please be assured that students have our full support, as do parents, to ensure they are well prepared and confident.

EdTech50

I am delighted to share that Heathfield Community College has been named as one of the Edtech 50 Schools. This is a celebration of the work going on in schools across the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, that use education technology to support great teaching and enhance learning.

The annual report highlights digital flagship schools in terms of technology - whether it be in supporting teaching, cutting teacher workload, collaboration across staff teams or consolidating knowledge, enhancing creativity and broadening experiences across the curriculum. The schools are chosen by a judging panel and yet again this showcases our college as leading and collaborating across the sector. I am very grateful to Mr Marrows and the Edtech team for leading and sustaining our commitment to this practice which gives Heathfield students such an advantage.

Well-Being

We all know well-being is important but often leave our own until last. We will be reminding students of our 12 steps to well-being which form the bedrock of our wellbeing programme and is also [available to parents on Firefly](#). We have refreshed the guidance and detail of our [Health and Well-being](#) approaches on the website. These also signpost reputable sources of help if needed over the holiday and at any time.

Please take a look at the [Local Events](#) page of our website for the latest Youth Sessions running across Wealden (Heathfield & Crowborough).

In advance of the end of term can I take the opportunity to thank you for your much-valued support and collaboration so far this year. I look forward to sharing **Headlines** with you next week.

I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

Highlights:

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and Twitter (@Heathfield_CC) for live updates of student activities and achievements.

[Latest News](#) on the website offers copies of all press releases about students' stories and successes.