



11 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to the Year 9 families who attended our Welcome to Key Stage 4 evening this week, it was great to see parents and hear the quality of conversations, we look forward to more events on site of this nature with other year groups.

Below are some updates from the College, as always please do take on board the points that are relevant to you.

Safe and Sustainable Travel

The College is very aware of growing concerns about the safety and sustainability of existing travel to school arrangements amongst our students, parents and neighbours to our site. The location of our site combined with existing facilities which would support parents and students to make different choices for the twice daily journey to and from school. Our students tell us they are sensitive to the environmental impact of their transport choices and would like to be able to walk and cycle more frequently. Both myself and the governors have campaigned hard on this matter for a number of years and feel the time is right to widen our appeals on this matter. More information will follow but as a starting point we have created an information page on our website which will inform parents about what we have done, what we are doing now and how you can help: https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=3211.

Conduct and Ethos

We all know we are living in a time of anxiety and uncertainty. We feel it ourselves and we can see it in our children. Students' emotions and reactions reflect the environment around them. In College we will respond to individual needs with compassion and empathy. As you will be aware this year we invested in more staff and resources to support well-being and pastoral teams. However, despite this, it is important our culture and ethos is protected.

We are very proud of our students, their conduct and consideration of each other. We must also be clear that any breaches of our conduct and ethos will be dealt with swiftly and firmly to protect the wider community, we will not hesitate to take the firmest action where necessary. Please ensure you are talking to your child about anything that is worrying them and let us know, check their social media use and reiterate to them that reporting concerns at an early stage is important to nip any issues in the bud.

Student Emails

This week we have had a Microsoft problem for students accessing E-Mails on their iPads. Students with issues can use the Outlook app which should already be installed. E-Mails can also be accessed via the links on the college website. If a student is unable to find the Outlook app then please come to Network Services and we will assist.



Distinguished School



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Cade Street, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8RJ Website: www.heathfieldcc.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms Caroline Barlow B.A. (Hons)

Vaping in School

A reminder that despite vaping on school premises being nationally on the rise, Heathfield Community College is a no-smoking site and we take a zero-tolerance approach to vapes (as a banned item). Anyone found with a vape is issued with an appropriate sanction, anyone using a vape is issued with an escalated sanction. The nature of the sanction will range depending on the circumstances. Please discuss the issues and risks associated with vaping with your child and if you would like support to do so we can signpost information and guidance. Please contact us if you are concerned about the wellbeing or health of your child.

School Funding

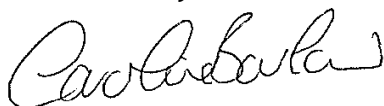
All of the issues we face, and our ability to respond to them in the way we would like, require adequate school funding. We have written to our local MP (letter attached) to highlight the impact of rising costs and insufficient funding on our budget and what this means for our students. We have also asked Huw Merriman to press the government for an urgently needed improved financial settlement for schools and colleges. Rising costs and insufficiency of government funding affects us all and will ultimately affect our young people. We would be very grateful if you would show your support by also writing and highlighting the issue as a concerned parent, before 17 November when the government is due to deliver its Autumn Statement. The letter we have written is attached to this communication.

Peter Pan Production

It has been great to see and hear the rehearsals for Peter Pan. Students and staff have worked hard to ensure a great show and it is so very important to support them as they build their confidence and experience through performance. Please come and see the show if you are at all able - it will be a good night out! Details of how to book tickets can be found in the letter sent out yesterday and on our website at [Parents/Letters & Information](#).

Finally, thank you for your continuing support and communication with us that allows us collectively to ensure we provide the best environment for our young people.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

Diary Dates:

w/b 14 November 2022	Year 10 Intensive Mocks Year 11 Mocks Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 15 November	Year 13 Wider Curriculum Day
Friday 18 November	Children in Need - Parents/Letters & Information
Friday 25 November	INSET Day
Monday 28 November	INSET Day

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.