



24 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well and you are enjoying the emerging signs of Spring. It has been lovely to witness the daffodils emerge around College, we hope after Easter to be able to think about re-opening the field and enjoying the full extent of our environment.

This communication provides updates on events at College and some notices for parents, but the main celebration of the term will come next week with Term 4 Headlines.

### Sporting Success

This term we have seen Heathfield students confidently succeed at a range of sporting events, it is a genuine pleasure to pay tribute to them all, teams and individuals.

- **Rugby:** U16 Rugby Sussex Schools County Cup joint-winners, U15 Count-Cup semi-finalists, U14 and U12 Wealden Borough Winners. Yr7 Rugby won both their games at the Sussex Schools U12 Finals day.
- **Netball:** Three teams have qualified for the county finals in Worthing after Easter. All 3 teams (Yr 11, 9 and 7) are Wealden Borough Champions.
- **Football:** Three teams (U14 and U13 boys and U14 girls) are into the latter stages of the Sussex County plate competitions.
- **Indoor Athletics:** Year 7 and 8 teams competed in the Wealden Borough Championships; Year 7 girls secured 1<sup>st</sup> place, Year 7 boys 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Year 8 girls 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Year 8 boys 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- **Cross Country:** Following qualifying at the Sussex Schools Cross Country Championships Evie Lennard (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Rosie Ferguson (15<sup>th</sup> place) are both competing this weekend at the Inter-Counties Championships in Kent. Rae Le Fay was part of the U16 Sussex Cross Country side that won the National Championships Team trophy in Nottingham on the 18 March, with Evie Lennard also competing and being part of the team that finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.
- **Individual success:** Eloise Jenkins won a Bronze medal in the European Open Taekwondo in Rome and Eve Myers gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Gymnastics South East Regional class.

We know sport and physical activity is good for us all, for our physical and mental health, but it has immeasurable positive impact on young people. It is a joy to see our students confident and ambitious in sport, gaining so much enjoyment from succeeding together, whether at these levels or in House Competitions for enjoyment and engagement.



Distinguished School



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### Visitor Impressions

We have enjoyed welcoming a range of visitors to the College in the last few weeks, from our Parent Learning Walk to leaders from other schools. We also welcomed a team from the Department for Education this week who came to see our practice in SEND and discuss the rural realities with local colleagues. The common feedback from these visits has shown how impressed visitors have been with the culture, tone and atmosphere of College, particularly how impressed they are with the young people they have met.

Parents enjoyed their tour with students and described them as “incredibly informative, confident and a credit to the school” as well as “such lovely students. They were polite, held doors open, happy to answer lots of questions and discuss [their experiences]”. Local leaders equally relayed that they were impressed with the focused, purposeful lessons they witnessed, the consistency of experience and the calm movement around the College. The team from the Department for Education stated they had valued “an informative visit on Tuesday. We were really inspired by what we saw” adding that they were sharing what they had seen with their teams - a real credit to the work of all staff led by Learning Support to ensure an inclusive and supportive environment.

### Tips for Revision

Thank you to the large number of Year 10 parents who attended the Revision Evening on Wednesday night. Key points discussed included:

- Why revision is important
- Planning and environment
- Effective ways of revising

The presentation shown on the night can be found on the website

(<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Effective-Revision-2023.pdf> ) and will be linked to in the Year 10 report letter next week.

### Ongoing Student Dialogue

Further to my last letter and the update on meetings with groups of students who felt “unheard”, two sessions have now been held with one more to take place next week. These cover topics of access to toilets, uniform and support for mental health. They have been positive and constructive meetings, balancing a range of perspectives and factors to consider which sometimes students had not realised. Suggestions that emerge from these meetings will be taken to School Council next week and then referred to Senior Team if they carry the weight of student agreement.

It is interesting how much young people’s perceptions are based on unfounded, often false information circulated on social media, it is worth checking the [online safety guidance](#) available on our website, taking time to check what they are viewing online and which chat groups they are part of. Do make sure your child knows how to raise an issue and always contact your pastoral teams if you are concerned about your child.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, please also continue to view [Latest News](#) on the website for more about recent student achievements.

Yours sincerely



**MS C BARLOW**  
Headteacher