



28 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for your ongoing support of both students and staff this week. I hope this contains some useful information for you, as always it is sectioned so you can focus on the aspects relevant to you.

Tuesday Industrial Action

As the NEU and the DfE have not managed to find resolution to the issues under dispute there will be an additional day of industrial action as we warned on Tuesday 2 May. We will operate on the same basis as Thursday this week. In other words, Year 11 and 13 should come into College. Year 10, 9, 8, 7 and Year 12 will be set remote learning. If you wish to sign up for the Key Worker supervision please register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewYjzuT7QNKln3Zko41OPOTy2OwoAbJj5q_dFHfDTqjwo5Chg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Just by way of context, and aware I have to be very careful with what I am able to say, please be wary of reports that focus on the dispute being solely about securing more pay for teachers, the slightly more complex issue is actually whether any pay awards are funded or not.

As a school we have a set income but we face the rising costs that everyone else does, in support staff as well as teaching staff, in services, utilities and all our resources. If we do not have sufficient income to balance those rising costs then schools will have no choice but to cut staffing.

Whilst it is true that there has been an uplift to the funding to schools, the *disputed* issue is whether this covers the increased costs in their totality. If it doesn't and there is no extra provided to cover increases to any pay awards then schools will have no choice but to reduce the excellent staffing and quality of provision that our students enjoy.

I have tried to word this as carefully as I can, I am unable to provide commentary or perspective. I am sorry if that means it is less than clear but I can promise you we are working as hard as we can to provide for student needs as well as we can in the circumstances. I can state it is becoming extremely difficult to achieve a balanced budget in the current circumstances.



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Speakers for Students continues

We were very grateful to Andrew “Bernie” Bernard for visiting College today as part of our series of speakers for students. He spoke to Year 9 and 10 boys on the topic of modern masculinity. Along with an entertaining and engaging personal story he had valuable points for the boys to reflect on including the messaging that boys receive about what boys might feel they are expected to do or be like. He encouraged them to think about why they do what they do and to be more conscious about the decisions they make and the actions they take. He left them with three main points to reflect on:

- You don’t always have to be or do what is expected
- To bring empathy for other people into everything you do
- To understand they have more power than they think they do, to be the best version of themselves

We will continue to follow up these themes in College.

No-Mow May

Once again, we are participating in Plantlife’s “No-Mow May” campaign. A number of areas of the College will not be mown until later in the summer to allow wild flowers to grow and attract pollinators. This has consequent benefits for other animals further up the food chain who depend on these insects as a food source. The impact of last year’s efforts can already be seen next to the dining hall, in the growing colony of Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), which will flower in the coming weeks.

However, we know that for some students this is a cause for greater awareness. If students have particular sensitivities to insects (particularly bees) then the following areas are best avoided:

- a) The verges around the 6th Form building and running alongside the A2096 (Cade Street)
- b) The contained area around Gas Storage
- c) The ‘Orchard area’ outside the Main Hall and Admin Offices

Most of these are not areas where students are normally located.

Preparing for External Exams

We are all aware of the nerves that some students will be feeling this month as they prepare for the first external exams for a few years. Many students in Year 11 take their MFL Speaking exams next week and it is clear that for all exam year groups they are fully focused and revising hard.

Students are clearly making the most of the time and techniques they have been given. Progress since the mocks has shown a strong indication that they will succeed and make their way successfully onto their chosen destinations. We want them to feel confident about that and be healthy and happy through the process as much as possible. Here are a few pointers to where you can find information that may be helpful:

- **Effective Revision:** https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=997924. This is vital to make the most of the time they have - students know the strategies and have been taught them for some time, if in doubt always ask your teacher how it can be applied in each subject. Time spent with subject specialist teachers is well worth while now for reassurance and any final tips.

- **Exam timetables and information:** Individual exam timetables were sent out before Easter via email which indicated the exam venue and allocated seat. If this has gone missing please ask for a replacement. General information is available from https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=3260
- **Health and Wellbeing:** a single source of information and links to both the College approaches to wellbeing and other agencies are available here https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=937357 - we are committed to helping no matter how small the concern, please get in touch with your [pastoral team](#) if you are concerned about your son/daughter through the exam season.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Please continue to view [Latest News](#) on the website for more about recent student achievements or visit our Facebook page for more frequent updates. Recently we have celebrated:

- Improvements to the College buildings
- State Schools County Netball Finals success
- The Big Dance
- The contribution of Cllr Rupert Simmonds to the College
- Year 9 Mixed Rugby
- Junior Maths Challenge
- Year 10 Wider Curriculum Day

There is a lot to be positive about in the activities and achievements of Heathfield students. Thank you for all that you do to support them and to support us in our work with them

I wish you a warm and enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

Support Staff Vacancies

if you are interested in joining our team of support staff do take a look at our recruitment page at <http://jobs.heathfieldcc.co.uk/vacancies/>.

DIARY DATES

w/b 1 May 2023	Start of GCSE & A Level Summer Exam Season
Monday 1 May 2023	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 3 May 2023	Year 9 Vaccinations
Monday 8 May 2023	Coronation Bank Holiday
Tuesday 9 May 2023	Broadbridges Uniform Sale