



15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well, the first two weeks of term seem to have flown by and the College is already fully operational with normal routines and habits established. Thank you to all who have worked with students to ensure they were ready for the start of term.

### Upgrades to Site

Over the summer we have continued to invest in maintaining and developing our site in line with great student collaboration. Significant cleaning, repainting and maintenance of lighting and electrics have ensured general areas continue to appear clean and modern but in particular:

- Thanks to SOHCC fundraising the students are enjoying a refreshed and more modern dining hall layout and furniture
- The Hub has been equipped with a student co-designed welcoming meeting space
- The Quad has been redeveloped as a quiet space for those students who prefer not to be in a busy noisier general area
- The Sixth Form common room has been redesigned as a modern well-stocked café
- Our long-awaited toilet refurbishment has commenced and is making good progress to be on track for completion after half term

### Online Safety

As part of a review of our Online Safety process, please could you complete a very short survey on the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHVkTHFqgOZ5eXe2NVg8Md\\_L4CMVZpW8M\\_OHWgcct8rRW3dhw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHVkTHFqgOZ5eXe2NVg8Md_L4CMVZpW8M_OHWgcct8rRW3dhw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

The survey closes on the 22 September 2023. All responses are anonymous unless you choose to share your contact details.

### Supporting Families with Uniform and Equipment

Thank you to all who have worked with us positively to ensure students are wearing the correct uniform for College. We know how vital it is for consistency and equality and we appreciate all efforts to work together to achieve this.

A great way to top up on equipment and support the community is to purchase at high street shops via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> which donates funds direct to the



Tel: (01435) 866066 e-mail: [office@heathfieldcc.co.uk](mailto:office@heathfieldcc.co.uk)

Cade Street, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8RJ Website: [www.heathfieldcc.co.uk](http://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk)

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

College for any transaction made. The College uses this fund to support families who may not qualify for additional support in other ways. Please email your pastoral team if you want to talk to a member of staff about support for any of these issues.

### ESCC Parenting Support

We attach with this letter the guidance from East Sussex on the courses they are offering to parents. Some of these deal with back-to-school anxiety others address teenagers who are causing their parents' concerns. They feel they have something for pretty much every parenting issue, free, online and easy to access. It may be worth a look.

### Government Action on Vaping:

- It is pleasing to see direction of travel and national focus on the dangers of vaping for young people and government [plans to clamp down on youth vaping](#).
- Vapes, along with any smoking material, remains a banned item in College with appropriate sanctions for both possession and use in school.

### Honours Awards

Congratulations to all students (over 550) who received Honours nominations or awards; both are valuable and to be celebrated. These students all had the opportunity yesterday, either in school or as part of the awards evening, to listen to our speaker Ben Smith founder of the 401 Challenge Charity, the charity is named after the 401 marathons he ran in 401 days in 2015-16, raising £330,000 for anti-bullying charities and winning both the Helen Rollason Sports Personality of the Year and Pride of Britain Awards in 2016.

Images from the awards evening and a write up of the event will be released shortly.

Ben's message was moving, focused on overcoming adversity, resisting the peer pressure to be something that is not true to your best self, to find what brings you happiness and commit to do it to the best of your ability. An inspiring message for us all and encouragement for the year ahead. More speakers from a range of fields will be visiting the College over the coming year enabling as many students as possible to benefit from their experience and motivation.

Thank you again for your support as we start a new academic year.

Yours sincerely



**MS C BARLOW**  
Headteacher

### Diary Dates

Tuesday 19 September	Year 11 GCSE Geography Trip
Thursday 21 September	Year 10 GCSE Geography Trip
Monday 25 - Friday 29 September	Term 1 House Competition - Football
Thursday 28 September	Main School Open Evening
Friday 29 September	Year 11 Safer Roads Presentation

Please take a look at the East Sussex Young Carers September Newsletter by clicking on the following link: <https://sway.office.com/8xbZbTehHQQrnc2r?ref=Link&loc=play>