



4 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing in advance of the start of term (Tuesday 5 September for Year 7 and 13 and Wednesday 6 September for all other year groups) with updates and information. It is important that you hear the facts from us and can ask questions if needed.

RAAC: You will have seen media reports on the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete in schools leading to temporary closure for some. We can assure you this is not the case for Heathfield Community College. The College was surveyed earlier this year and did not report any issues of concern. ESCC assessed their properties for survey and classified us as of secondary risk. We were then surveyed by appointed engineers in their second tranche of inspections and they did not report anything of concern. We believe this issue will not affect Heathfield students.

Timings of the School Day: A reminder of changes to timings at the start of the day. This is due to DfE guidelines nationally standardising the amount of time students need to be in lessons/tutor time. Students need to be in tutor time at 8:35am. Buses have adapted, please check providers to be sure but any changes should have already taken place. Contact details can be found in our [Parent/Carer Helpbook](#) on the College website. The finish to the school day remains at 3.05pm.

Uniform and Equipment: Following previous reminders of aspects of uniform, we remind you that **SOHCC** are having another sale on **today from 2pm-4pm**. Thank you for your support ensuring students will be well equipped. We would stress that if you were sent an individualised letter at the end of Term 6 regarding uniform this should be resolved before the start of term, the SOHCC sale would be a good opportunity to do this.

Discussion with suppliers regarding some alternatively priced items are being finalised and we should be able to update later in Term 1. If there any remaining issues which prevent the correct uniform being worn for the start of term please contact the year team pastoral manager in advance of term: <https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/WHO-TO-CONTACT-HOW-SEPTEMBER-2023-24-BLW.pdf>.

A reminder that a great way to top up on equipment and support the community is to purchase at high street shops (*including Amazon, M&S, Tesco, Sainsburys among many others*) via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> which donates funds direct to the 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.



Distinguished School



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

Toilet Refurbishment: As you may be aware we are undertaking some major construction works to completely refurbish the student toilets. This is a much-needed modernisation and will ensure increased and accessible facilities for all. These remain gendered toilets, allowing discreet flexibility where agreed with staff and parents.

The heavy and noisy construction work has largely been undertaken before students return as it involves considerable structural work before the refitting of the new design can commence. Student learning should not be compromised by the presence of contractors on site although some routes of movement around site may be altered. This ongoing work does mean that we have had to bring in temporary toilet facilities for students. Admittedly, these do not look particularly attractive from the outside (they are contained within shipping container type structures) but they do provide modern individual cubicles and equivalent facilities as we had previously.

We have taken every effort to limit the impact of these works on the students, so access to the toilets will remain as agreed last term with no reduction; the temporary toilets will be split between separate boys' and girls' provision and we will explain to students how this will work at the start of term. If you have any concerns about your child's use of the toilets, for medical reasons, please contact your pastoral manager to discuss your priorities.

We anticipate the work will be completed after October half-term and the new blocks will open on students return for Term 2, so we feel that this short-term inconvenience will be more than worth it for the long-term gain.

New Information Platform Integration: Later in the academic year we will be integrating a shift to a new management information system which will simplify how many apps and platforms parents and staff need to use. This will be hugely beneficial but will be a big shift. In order to minimise the risk in transferring data mid-year and provide suitable staff training, we have been given additional INSET days at the start of January. We will aim to provide online learning (to be confirmed) but on 2 and 3 January 2024 students will not be onsite.

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

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

Date for Diaries:

Tuesday 5 September	Year 7 & 13 Start of Term
Wednesday 6 September	All students Start of Term
Friday 8 September	School Photos for Years 7, 9, 11, & 12
	Lost Property Re-Claim (3.20-4.20pm)
Thursday 14 September	Honours Awards Evening (award winners will receive an invitation this week)