



6 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to start with appreciation for all the parents who have recently attended events at College, whether Year 10 Revision Evening or Year 11 Futures Evening, your participation alongside us makes a big difference and is very much appreciated. The last few weeks have been busy at College and much has been shared via our news networks. I would also particularly thank parents for enabling students from a range of year groups to help make the College Open Evening for Year 7 2024 such a resounding success. Below are some key points for your awareness.

Mental Health Day

On Friday 13 October students will engage in a non-uniform day to raise funds for MIND, the College will also be collaborating with the national health campaign to “Get Britain Talking” this will be explained in assemblies and tutor time with supporting materials and signposting of where and how to get help. As always if you have concerns about your child’s well-being, please contact your pastoral teams at an early stage. There is also a wealth of external support signposted on the College website:

https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=937357

School Platforms - Appeal for Parent Help

For the last year we have been trying to find ways to reduce the number of platforms parents and staff have to use to access information and college systems. Currently parents use: Firefly, Edulink, School Gateway and School Cloud as well as the website. By switching to a new platform, we would aim to reduce that significantly. We now have confirmation that our plans to do this can take effect from January, hence the additional INSET Days to enable staff to train on the new system.

We are looking for some parents to work alongside us as we move through the transition to make sure we are working in ways that make it clear and accessible to parents, considering the aspects which are of greatest importance. Please contact Mr Howard on bhoward@heathfieldcc.co.uk to find out more detail or volunteer to help.

Announcements on Smoking/Vaping

You may have seen the announcements made in the media about potential legal approaches to smoking. It is worth remembering that due to successful campaigns, legal requirements and shifts in public culture the rate of smoking amongst young people



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

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

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

according to NHS recent (2021) surveys is as low as 3%, however we do know one of the greatest risks to young peoples' health is the current easy availability of vapes. We wanted to take the opportunity to reassure parents that we continue to approach these issues with a combination of education and consistency. Within PHSE lessons students are guided through an understanding of the risks of all relevant substances, alcohol, tobacco linked products and drugs. Guidance and support for those who need or want it is available through the pastoral system with signposting of support on the Health and Well-being website pages. In terms of consistency, we treat all tobacco related products (including vapes) as a banned substance; the possession and/or use on the College site of these items is consistent with the Behaviour Policy and will not be tolerated.

The Wider Curriculum

We have been thrilled to see so many students attend our many **Extra-curricular Clubs**, if your child has not started one it is not too late. Registers are taken on Edulink and students are welcome to pick one and turn up. From STEM Club to Carnival Club to iPad Band to Rugby, there is something for everyone. See [here](#) for the timetable and more information.

Next week we are excited to launch our program for **Enrichment Week 2024**, last year was a great success and this year we have several new activities and trips planned.

Finally, the week before half term sees the start of **Supercurricular Fortnight**, students have the opportunity to engage with subjects outside of the classroom. This is an opportunity to extend students' interest in subjects outside of the Curriculum. All students who engage receive P3s and House points.

Latest News

We tend to post our ongoing achievements and students' success on our social media (Facebook @HeathfieldCommunityCollege and Twitter @Heathfield_CC) pages as events happen, as well as the Latest News pages. A reminder of the range so far this year:

Extra-Curricular: Equestrian success and House Football

Year 11 Future Choices Evening

Heathfield Students attend UN Conference

Yr13 Psychology students' trip to Bethlem Museum of the Mind

Praise for Year 11 students today from the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership


Sharing the EdTech journey: <https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?p=2599146>

Youth Hub Advisory Group opportunity

Heathfield Students win Mayfield Climate Competition

Thank you again for all your help and support to ensure students are able to be in school smart and well equipped, it is noticed and it is appreciated. Do let us know if we can help in anyway overcome any barriers to this - the consistency we achieve in College on this helps students enormously.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

Diary Dates

Monday 9 October 2023	Year 12 Cambodia Camp Launch
Tuesday 10 October 2023	Year 7 Wider Curriculum Day
Thursday 12 October 2023	Years 7 and 12 Parent/Tutor Evening
Friday 13 October 2023	Mental Health - Non-Uniform Day
Monday 16 October 2023	A Level Art/Photography Trip
Tuesday 17 October 2023	Broadbridges Uniform Sale
Wednesday 18 October 2023	Year 13 Economics Conference
Thursday 19 October 2023	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 20 October 2023	SOHCC Preloved Uniform Sale Last day of Term