

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all for your support of our Christmas events over the last fortnight. It has been good to mark these happy occasions with students.

The main news this week is the edition of Headlines which provides a wealth of information about the achievements of Term 2:

<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?p=2283218>.

However, there are some points of information below which are important for January.

New Management of Information System - Arbor

In January we will be moving to Arbor as our new Management Information System. Arbor will replace Edulink and Firefly and offer features such as online payments for clubs/trips and cashless catering through the **Arbor Parent Portal**. We know this simplification is something many parents feel will be positive and so we appreciate your cooperation in making this transition smooth.

➤ **Parent Action Required**

- Look out for login details for the Arbor Parent Portal on Wednesday 3 January 2024, including instructions for registration and future top-ups.
- All balances from School Gateway will automatically transfer to the Arbor Parent Portal, you do not need to do anything.

Getting Ready for Change

We encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with Arbor using the following link [Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App](#). Arbor also offers access to free training resources, which can be found [here](#).

Look out for further communication in early January regarding the parental app and registration details. Registration will be available starting Wednesday 3 January 2024.

Additional blazer choice available

Since the start of the year, we have been discussing with Broadbridges the need to source more affordable blazer choices. From January there will now be a choice available for those who are buying new. Both blazers are suitable for school wear, parents purchasing new will be able to make choices suitable for their needs. There is also always the option to purchase from SOHCC for reduced cost pre-loved versions of all our uniform items.



Distinguished School



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The current 'Premium' blazer is made from premium recycled polyester, derived from recycled bottles. It is described as "harder wearing," and more resistant to wear and tear. 'New Elements' Blazer is made from 100% non-recycled polyester and is priced cheaper than the Premium Blazer.

Student Toilets

Despite our best hopes, the snagging and actions required to ensure we reached the quality we wanted from the programme of works has meant we have not been able to open the toilets to students this week. As the hoardings have come down and the final stages have been visible, students will have seen them and hopefully have a good idea of the fantastic investment they represent.

To reiterate guidance previously given:

- Break and Lunchtime is the main time for use of the toilets, access during lesson time is mainly for emergencies only.
- Leaving lessons to use toilets is monitored and permissions may be revoked if not used appropriately.
- Access is not permitted in the first or last 10 minutes of a lesson.
- Toilets remain allocated separately to girls and boys, and only one student is allowed in any cubicle for safeguarding reasons.
- As has always been the case public areas, which now include central washroom areas which are open to the main corridor, are covered by CCTV. Additional signage and DPIA adjustments will recognise any changes. The additional benefit for students of the new design is that each cubicle is floor to ceiling and the washroom areas open onto the corridor so privacy, safety and supervision are enhanced.
- Through the redesign we have enhanced the provision of accessible toilets available.

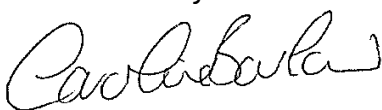
This is a significant investment and a huge improvement on previous provision. We would be grateful for all support to acknowledge this and re-iterate the message that like all aspects of the College it must be maintained in a good condition and used respectfully. They will open fully in January; temporary toilets will have been removed and form tutors will outline the requirements of use to all students at the start of term.

Heathfield Students speak to BBC South East

Continuing our established history of giving students the opportunity to learn how to share their voice and their views, students recently spoke to a BBC South East investigative team exploring the impact of vaping on young people and schools <https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?p=2642086>.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year, we look forward to seeing students again on 4 January 2024.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher