

1 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I trust this letter finds you well, and I extend my gratitude for your ongoing support as we approach the end of the term. As we look forward to exciting events such as the upcoming Matilda production and festive Christmas activities, I wanted to share some updates and information about recent developments and changes at Heathfield College.

Visit by the Secretary of State for Education

Today we were honoured to host the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, and her Special Adviser team at the College. The visit included a tour of the College, where they observed high-quality learning in various lessons and spoke to students. The Secretary of State then actively engaged in discussions with our School Council, focusing on the use of technology, including AI, to support learning in lessons as well as independent revision and homework.

The team expressed their admiration for the level of aspiration demonstrated by our students and described the College as "absolutely fantastic" and "a wonderful school". We are very proud of all students who were involved and represented the College so well. Further details and images from the visit will be shared soon.

Re-opening of Student Toilets

We are pleased to announce that the new student toilets will be open within the next two weeks. We appreciate the patience of our students as some delays, related to building control issues, pushed back the completion date. These facilities represent a significant investment of our capital funding, and it is essential that students use them responsibly. We will be re-educating and reminding students about the proper methods of access and courtesy when using the toilets.

A Reminder of the Guidelines:

- 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

We are pleased with the progress of the works, and this reflects our commitment to providing a modern, high-quality environment for our students.



Distinguished School



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

New Management of Information System - Arbor

Starting in January, we will be transitioning to Arbor as our new Management Information System. This move will enhance communication efficiency and consolidate core school data and workflows into a single 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 would be positive and so we appreciate your cooperation in making this transition smooth.

➤ **Parent Action Required**

- Top up the School Gateway account for cashless catering before Thursday 14 December 2023.
- 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.

We appreciate those parents who expressed interest in joining the parent focus group; we will contact you next week with details about the meeting.

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](#).

Next Update

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

Thank you once again for your continued support. We will provide additional updates and reminders as the term concludes.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

Diary Dates

w/b 4 December	Year 7 Assessment Fortnight continues
Wednesday 6 December	Year 11 Wider Curriculum Day
	Year 12/13 Police Careers Event
	Matilda College Production (6pm)
Thursday 7 December	Year 11 Subject Feedback Evening
	Sixth Form Christmas Quiz
Friday 8 December	Matilda College Production (6pm)
Monday 11 December	"Text Your School Nurse" (Promotion by East Sussex School Health Service)
	Broadbridges Uniform Sale (3.15pm - 4.15pm)
	LAMDA Drama to Parents (3.45pm)
	February Ski Trip Meeting (5.50pm)
Tuesday 12 December	Year 10 Theatre Production of 'A Christmas Carol'
	Othello Theatre Screening for 6 th Form
Wednesday 13 December	Year 9 "Calling it Out" Performance
	LAMDA Drama Exam
	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 14 - Friday 15 December	Lille Christmas Market Trip
Thursday 14 December	Learning Support Christmas Fair (4.30pm)
	Alumni Event (5.30pm)
	Carol Concert (6.00pm)
Friday 15 December	Last day of term: more information to follow next week about transport and finishing time