



12 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for a great start to Term 3, your support in ensuring students are ready and able to start term positively is invaluable and really appreciated by staff. This communication holds just a few updates and points of information, do take what is relevant to you along with the diary dates.

Is it always like this?

Whilst some contractors were being shown around the site this week, I stopped to engage with them. One of them took me to one side and asked, *“your school, is it always like this?”*, slightly nervously I enquired what he meant by this. He went on to explain, *“we have walked all-round the building, everywhere, to look at the wiring but literally wherever we go, it is so calm. It’s amazing. Is everyone on their best behaviour?”* Relieved, I assured him we did not put on a special show for visiting electricians and yes, every day is pretty much like this and our students’ behaviour is indeed pretty great most of time.

Sometimes we forget, not everywhere is like this and to appreciate the positives when we are reminded of them. Well done to all, to our staff for their great relationships with students and especially the students for arriving at school ready and willing to engage to the best of their ability. It is noticed and appreciated.

Management of Information System - Arbor

Thank you for your patience as we iron out any teething problems with Arbor and the parent portal. The student portal is back and effective; in school the functionality it provides means we are already seeing the time and efficiency saving that this system can provide.

Whilst we would have wished for a much smoother start for parents, we are confident that by next week we will see those time savers for parents too. Do contact:

- itsupport@heathfieldcc.co.uk for any log in issues
- financeoffice@heathfieldcc.co.uk for any issues accessing School Gateway for lunch top ups next week

We hope that by the end of next week we will be satisfied with the Arbor response to be able to return to normal working practices.



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

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding

We know that students who eat regular healthy meals are more likely to:

- increase their ability to concentrate
- work to the best of their ability
- make good progress
- achieve their full potential

Registering for Free School Meals, if relevant, can not only save you money but help support the College for all pupils. See here for more details:

<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FSM-Information-Letter-23-24.pdf>

Vaping on School Transport

Thank you to those who have reported concerns about some evidence of students vaping on school transport. We have clarified with the bus companies and their position on this is clear:

They do not allow smoking or vaping on our buses, this is a legal requirement, smoking was banned from all buses in 1991. They concur with the government (and College) position that vapes should not be used by people under the age of 18.

To clarify the College's position on this. Once reports of vaping by students are received, the College will liaise with the bus company to identify the students and, in line with the Bus Code of Conduct, students may find they have their ability to travel on the bus removed for a fixed or extended period of time.

A reminder that the College's position on vaping is well documented. There is no tolerance for either possession of or use of vapes on College site, it is treated as a banned substance and sanctions will follow accordingly.

Cold Weather

We would really appreciate parent support in ensuring students are equipped for the expected period of colder weather. Where possible students will maintain their social time in outside spaces and so should be equipped with warm coats as well as gloves, scarves or hats as required.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
w/b 15 January 2024	Year 13 Mocks continue Year 8 Assessment Fortnight 1 Table Tennis House Competition
18 January 2024	Year 9 & 10 Theatre Trip: Blood Brothers, Woking GCSE PE Students Practice Moderation
w/b 22 January 2024	Year 13 MFL Mock Oral Exams
23 January 2024	Year 10 & 11 Triple Scientists Trip to Science Live, Brighton
26 January 2024	'Smashed': Year 7 Drama Performance
w/b 29 January 2024	Year 8 Harry Potter Trip (please see letter showing which day your child is attending) - Parents/Letters & Information