



15 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank you for all your support in ensuring that students continue to engage well and commit to both their learning and all their extra-curricular activities. It is noticed and recognised by staff and visitors regularly.

The Big Dance

Well done to the students in Years 5 and 6 from our feeder primary schools and across the College for two fantastic evenings of the annual Big Dance event. A great display of teamwork and talent was shown in all areas. Clear evidence of hard work and commitment from those dancing publicly for the first time and those proficient at competition and excellence. Years 5 and 6 showed energy, enthusiasm and some great quality in their dances, they clearly enjoyed the experience. Our students provided great role models for what can be achieved with effort, dedication and a belief in excellence. Well done all!

College Canteen: School Food

We are very fortunate to enjoy, on a daily basis, high quality food for students and staff that is varied, healthy and affordable. We know that this is not always the case in schools and we do not take for granted the exceptional team we have at our College. Ben, our Chef Manager, and his team are a real asset to the College.

You may have seen that recently they have not only been awarded their 5* Hygiene rating but also secured outstandingly high grades in the European Safety Bureau Audit, a stringent test which assesses a wide range of health and safety areas.

We know that students and staff appreciate the quality and range of cuisine available to them on a daily basis and would all join in congratulating the team for this fantastic recognition of the quality food they provide for the College.

The Positive Majority

In a world where we all sometimes wrestle with negativity bias, the inclination is to be more likely to “*attend to, learn from, and use negative information far more than positive information*” (Vaish, Grossmann, & Woodward, 2008).

We would like to continue to encourage the active noticing of the wealth of positive evidence of the work of the College and our students as they grow-up into interesting, engaged and informed 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)

We regularly post on social feeds the evidence of our students as they engage positively with activities and enrichment on top of their normal focused learning. These examples are not an exception or a small minority - they are the overwhelming majority.

A recent visit to the school, of a trained HMI/School Adviser, elicited feedback that they were very impressed, on a rainy Period 5, to see all classes so focused, hardworking and self-regulated. They witnessed effective use of iPads, class reading, silent writing and direct teacher instruction to attentive focused classes. This is our norm. We notice and appreciate it with students regularly.

Recent updated information confirmed our established records that students receiving sanctions for incorrect behaviours are a small minority and significantly lower than many other local schools. Instead, our published praise data shows the vast majority demonstrating and being rewarded for positive actions and attitudes.

The total number of praises this term (January-March) issued both inside and outside lessons is an impressive 141,800. Interestingly, the average number of praises for girls over this period is logged at 49 and the average praises for boys also logged at 49. This does not include the large number of students also involved in leadership, clubs and teams who are also a real credit to the College and their families. The data is also a marked difference to the average number of consequences per student which is 3.1 for the same period.

Praise is visible on the parent portal of Arbor, please do recognise it and discuss it with your child. Evidence of success breeds confidence and self-esteem. It is important they hear and know that their efforts are recognised, talked about, are seen and rewarded and that they represent the positive majority of whom we are very proud.

Communicating with the College

A reminder that our methods and mediums for contacting the College are published online, we provide names and details of staff on the basis that these are used with respect and professional courtesy. We endeavour to ensure you are responded to as swiftly as possible and work hard to understand and respond to all questions and concerns, no matter how complex at times.

We would remind you that, like all other professional workplaces, staff are timetabled for teaching and professional meetings for most of the day; it is not possible to release them for impromptu meetings that are not booked in advance.

Thank you again for your ongoing support, it is appreciated.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 18 March	Broadbridges Uniform Sale (3.15-4.15pm) Link Hall
	Lost Property Reclaim (3.15-4.15pm) Link Hall
Thursday 21 March	Year 10 Virtual Subject Feedback Evening
Wednesday 27 March	Year 9 Wider Curriculum Day: Employability Skills
	Lost Property Reclaim (3.15-4.15pm) Link Hall
Thursday 28 March	End of Term 4
Friday 29 March - Friday 12 April	Easter Holiday
Monday 15 April	Start of Term 5