



26 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all parents/carers and families who continue to support the work of the College, your collaboration and constructive communication means we are able to be effective in our work and continue to offer a wide and rich provision for students in all areas.

Summer Term Reminders

- Uniform does not change during Term 5; any adjustments are made in Term 6. Blazers and all items must be worn correctly to remain at the standard expectation. The Policy is clear, necklaces and bracelets should not be worn for H&S reasons.
- Bike helmets are essential for those opting to cycle to school in better weather.
- Please ensure a water bottle is part of basic expected equipment.

Social Media Groups

As adults we are all aware that some young people are regularly part of online group chats on social media and messaging platforms, at times these group chats can be misused, unkind things can be said as well as inappropriate content shared. Attached to this letter are some important tips to share with your child/children.

Banned Items

Our primary responsibility, alongside education, is to ensure students are safe. We regularly review practices and would remind you all of our [policy on prohibited items](#), the protocols around screening and searching and the potential inherent consequences of breaching the expectations.

Mobile Phones in College

As you will be aware, we operate a reasonable policy with regard to mobile phones. Based on our rural location students are not barred from carrying them. However, they are not allowed to be used or seen in College hours. This is in line with the Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Agreement signed on entry to the College. This is worth a reminder to all students as we review our approach in line with [DfE Guidance](#), we will be strengthening the response to inappropriate use in College.

Allergies

As we have opened the school field can we remind all students and parents/carers of the need to self-manage in terms of proximity to grasses and pollens? We will be implementing the usual "No-Mow" May and as such will make clear to students which areas will be left for pollinators and natural growth. Could parents/carers of students with serious allergies ensure the adrenaline pens they carry on them are 'in-date' (the ones in school are checked regularly and we will be in touch as they near expiry).



Distinguished School



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

If any student, who suffers from hay fever, needs medication for this in school, please could you fill in the [medical consent form](#) and return to [Welfare](#), with the medication, so that we can keep it safe, and provide if needed. We are not allowed by law to give out ANY medication not provided by a student's parent/carer without a signed consent form, even simple things like painkillers or antihistamines. May we also remind you that students should not be carrying medication on their person in school, except for a few emergency medications such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline pens, when Welfare should be made aware that they have them

In addition, a standard reminder that as we have students in the College with severe nut allergies that can lead to anaphylaxis, we suggest that any cakes/bakes that you bring in for either packed lunches or events held in College do not contain nuts or nut-based products.

School Pastors

School Pastors are highly trained volunteers who visit Heathfield Community College every week to listen and care for students and staff during term time. In Heathfield they take it in turns to patrol in pairs during lunchtime on Thursdays. They offer a reassuring and friendly presence to students who may not feel able to speak openly with teachers or parents/carers. Pastors do not discuss religion, they are a church member with a concern for young people. They can build bridges, are willing to listen, can set a good example and be a positive role model. If you feel you could join their rota or would like to find out more about their work please contact: heathfield@schoolpastors.org.uk

Revision Materials

You may have seen the helpful videos made by our Lead Prefect Team which were released over Easter, these provide useful tips. There are more tips and information available on the school website: https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=997924. These include:

- Revision Planning
- Avoiding Distractions
- Revision Strategies that work

This page is frequently updated so worth revisiting over the next week or so as we approach the final few weeks before formal exams start.

Thank you to all who are helping us in supporting students in all year groups to get things right and form the best habits. Your help makes such a difference and is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week beginning 29 April	Art, Photography and Media Exams
Tuesday 30 April	Year 12 UCAS Conference, Brighton Pre-loved Uniform Sale - 3.15-4.15pm
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 May	Year 7 Planetarium in school
Wednesday 8 May	Open Morning - booking is essential
Thursday 9 May	Start of 2024 Exam Season
Thursday 16 May	Year 9 Subject Feedback Evening