



28 March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to include in this letter the link to the Term 4 edition of **Headlines**:
<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?p=2283218>

Summer Term Reminders

- Uniform does not change during Term 5, any adjustments are made for Term 6 or if the weather changes significantly, of which we will give good notice. Blazers and all items worn correctly remain the standard expectation.
- Bike helmets are essential for those opting to cycle to school in better weather. It would also be a good idea to service your bike over the Easter holiday if it has not had recent or regular use.
- We are increasing the number of water taps that will be available to students - please ensure a water bottle is part of basic expected equipment.

The Positive Majority

The vast majority of our students demonstrate their positive attitudes and actions every day. This is what we promote and share publicly so they know they are seen and encouraged in their efforts.

The total number of praises, issued both inside and outside lessons, continues to rise as students work hard and are recognised. The average number of praises for girls over this term is now logged at 56 and the average praises for boys at 55. The number of Community Awards given this term (for above national levels of attendance and only 2 behaviour logs per term) equates to 35% of the school, not simply getting things right but excelling in their school attitude and engagement.

Preparing for Examinations

Year 10, 11 and 13 will all be in the midst of preparing for examinations this summer. They have our full support as they embark on an Easter holiday of revision activities. Much of this will be pre-set by Curriculum areas and set on Arbor. If they are struggling to organise themselves or how to best revise there is a wealth of easy to access support on our website: [Effective Revision](#). The best advice includes:

- Create a timetable and stick to it
- Focus on revising the right material, from memory using the Revision Clock approach
- Avoid distractions, create breaks and reward hard work



Distinguished School



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Action Against Bullying - Collective Responsibility

We have consistently spoken to students this year about the importance of collective responsibility. Over the last 2 years we have led a clear drive to address increasing levels of unkindness in society which we see in the way people, and young people, treat each other. This is unlikely to be work that can ever be seen as 'finished', however, we are determined. We view this as a collective effort and remind students of the following:

- **Safe and sensible use of social media**

The need to think carefully about what we write, share and read is covered extensively in PHSE and other lessons in College. Filtering helps to a great extent but does not prevent unsupervised access on phones out of College.

Parents can help: We have frequently shared guidance on supervising and monitoring young peoples use of their phones and apps. Specific Information is available on our [Online Safety](#) website page. Regular monitoring and discussion encourages safe boundaries, can moderate language and access to inappropriate sites or content; it is a subtle barrier to know that adults may see what they say online and the group chats they are in.

- **The need to report**

We log all reported issues on a range from "unkind language or physicality" to "bullying behaviours". These logs are then substantiated with available supporting information (necessary to prevent false reporting) building up a picture over time. Whilst every child should be allowed the chance to correct and improve their actions, repeated patterns of unkind behaviour will not go without serious sanction.

Parents can help: Without logging or necessary information, we cannot act on issues we do not know about or are unable to evidence, this absolutely does not mean we do not care or do not wish to respond. Please encourage your child to report so they can be assured of a supportive response. We may not always be able to act on events that take place out of school but will always support as far as we can.

- **Understanding what is meant by bullying**

Everyone has their own level of resilience and perceptions vary. It is normal that we will not like everyone or that some people will not like us. However, bullying can happen anywhere to anyone. It is important to understand what is meant by 'bullying'.

- It is not disagreements between friends or not liking someone. It is not being left out of one event, being looked at or accidental encounters in busy areas.
- It is usually defined as repeated and sustained behaviour over time which is intended to hurt someone either emotionally or physically.

Parents can help: We can support as adults by encouraging kindness. What may seem like "banter" to one person may be hurtful and upsetting to another. Once or twice is not bullying but sustained over time it is damaging and unacceptable. Modelling calm, kind behaviours and language in how we as adults engage, shows that we can resolve disagreements or differences positively.

As parents, and as adults who work with young people, it is always upsetting to see our children hurt or distressed. Our ability to work collectively together to understand and help them navigate issues is important. It also helps College to act decisively and firmly against the minority who persistently pursue unacceptable and unpleasant ways of engaging.

We are hugely grateful to our community who work so positively with us to tackle unkindness where we see it in society and online.

Finally, can I recommend to you Term 4's edition of Headlines. It is packed full of the high-quality learning and wider experiences that students have enjoyed this term. I can suggest either an in-depth long read or a frequent dip in and out to sample the vast array on offer. It is impressive, and the students' response to everything that is available for them is equally strong.

I wish you all a very peaceful and enjoyable Easter break. If you are a "revising house" I wish you calm and successful focus. All our students have worked hard this term, they are on track to some successful outcomes and exciting destinations. They have our full support, thank you for your support of the College and all that we do.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Barlow', written in a cursive style.

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please view Headlines for next terms events