



10 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all parents/carers and families who continue to support the work of the College, and especially to those supporting young people approaching exams this week and in the coming month. There will be highs and lows but they are well prepared and have our full support.

Action Against Bullying: The College has a range of methods to educate students about bullying and the importance of collective responsibility. We have led a clear drive to address increasing levels of unkindness in society that we all see in the way people, and young people, treat each other.

The consistent feedback from the vast majority of parents, staff and students remains that young people feel safe and happy in College. However, we believe this can never be seen as 'finished work' and wider concerns exist in society about influences on young people. We encourage you to complete the Ofcom consultation: protecting children from online harm www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-1/protecting-children-from-harms-online.

We continue to work collectively to ensure our young people have the best support. Further to the parent letter of [28 March](#) we have transferred guidance to a webpage on the Parent tab as we all play our part in this important work: www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=2722324

Communication: We really value the constructive and collaborative way the vast majority of parents engage with staff. We know that when you are worried about your child it can feel emotive and upsetting but appreciate the majority that still regulate emotions and work professionally with the College. Staff will always work their hardest to understand, empathise and act on any concerns raised. We may not always agree but we will always listen and act in the best interests of young people.

However, sadly it needs to be made clear that it is absolutely unacceptable that **any** member of College staff should be subject to emotive, extreme or aggressive language in the course of carrying out their job. This includes angry, demanding or abusive language, trying to address or inflate student issues via social media, undermining staff's professionalism and expertise or seeking to circumvent the formal processes of having a concern addressed.

Myself and governors are clear that such actions will result in the College taking steps to safeguard staff which may slow actions needed to address any concerns or restrict/remove the ability to communicate with College.



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

Lockdown Procedure: You may be aware that every year we carry out practices of our Fire Evacuation and our Lockdown procedures. We do not normally alert parents to these as they are standard practice and any need for individual adjustment is managed in school. However, in light of recent events nationally it may be useful for you to know in advance we are planning a lockdown rehearsal in Term 6. We will naturally ensure that any such event does not interfere with exams.

Supporting Revision: Heathfield students are well supported with revision strategies and techniques, they learn them through lessons and additional guidance throughout their time at College, there is also a wealth of advice and material on the College website, including [tips to avoid being distracted](#), which may be useful.

We appreciate living with a teenager going through an exam season adds a dimension to the house which affects everyone. College has given them all the subject help and preparation they need. From home and parents however, there are some top tips which may be of value, please feel free to disregard if you do not feel they are relevant to you - you know your child best!

- Don't worry too much about the revision planning, we have ensured they have a timetable to follow, gentle encouragement from home is the best support with lots of praise for the hard work they have done and are doing.
- Remind your child it is normal to experience strong emotions (maybe when a paper has not gone as well as they hoped) but these don't last forever. Gently challenge a mind set of catastrophising one single event.
- Encourage them to talk to you about how they are feeling and explain most people have experienced times of stress and found a way through. Equally let us know if you are worried about how your child is coping and we can signpost support.
- Encourage them to get good sleep, eat well and rest with a balance of work, exercise or outside time and relaxation.
- Remind your child that you love them unconditionally.

Summer Term Reminders

- Uniform does not change during Term 5; adjustments are made in Term 6 if weather permits and both students and parents are notified in advance. Until then, as normal:
 - *Blazers are worn unless active at social time or allowed to be removed in a lesson.*
 - *Jewellery such as bracelets and necklaces are not allowed for H&S reasons.*
 - *All items must be worn correctly.*
- 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.

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

w/b 13 May	GCSE & A Level Exams
	Year 7 Assessment Fortnight
Thursday 16 May	Year 9 Subject Feedback Evening
w/b 20 May	GCSE & A Level Exams
	Year 7 Assessment Fortnight
	Super-curricular Fortnight
Thursday 23 May	Year 9 GCSE Drama to parents (from 3.20pm)
Friday 24 May	End of Term 5
Monday 3 June	Start of Term 6