



24 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support and kindness many of you have shown to staff and students this week. Our hearts remain very much with the family of Aaron King as they navigate this incredibly difficult time. As previously stated, Aaron was known as a kind and caring young man who very clearly enjoyed school and was a talented athlete. He was popular with his peers and well-liked by all the adults in school who knew him, many of whom he had a close relationship with. We were all fortunate to have known him and he will be sorely missed at College.

The nature of our staff and students has meant College has been a very supportive and compassionate environment over the last week. This will be maintained after half term as we continue our work to support young people, particularly through difficult times. As detailed earlier this week, all available resource has been focused into this work over the week and we are very appreciative of the external support to do so along with the vast number of supportive messages from the wider community. We have tried to signpost as much support as possible to those who may want it over the half term. I am currently working with ESCC to secure further support for our return after half term and will update at the start of the first week back.

All of us involved are also sadly aware that incidents like this sometimes bring out the worst kind of response from some people, inciting gossip and rumour that is only ever harmful and never helpful. We have strongly encouraged students not to engage themselves in anything of this nature. We would encourage you to endorse this message and check devices to ensure this message has been heard.

Well-Being Hub

Earlier this year we announced the launch of The Wellbeing Hub in support of our work around wellbeing - this is a website that supports both parents and students with all things related to young people's mental health and wellbeing such as: *Academics, Alcohol & Drugs, Anxiety, Careers, Diversity & Inclusion, Friendships & Relationships, Mental Health, Money Matters, Next Steps, Online Safety, Resilience and Sleep.*

The Wellbeing Hub was launched to all students with an email from Miss Surrage, please support your child to sign up if they have not already done so. The link below can be used to create a **free parent account** which we would strongly encourage you to do:
<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=f32d418dd4057878b809d2d95de2e8c3>



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

Headlines

Whilst there is much to celebrate about the achievements of our young people and the fantastic range of activities and opportunities that they have embraced this term, we have decided to delay the release of Headlines until after Half Term.

Summer Term 6

I can confirm that the Summer Term 6 uniform adaptations will be in place on our return. This includes:

- Students do not need to wear their blazer as a compulsory item.
- It is important that no other item is worn *instead* of the blazer (*e.g. a coat or jumper*) if extra layers are required, the blazer is the first, then others can be added.
- A reminder that jewellery requirements remain the same: necklaces, bracelets, hooped earrings are all a potential health and safety risk and should be left at home please.

We hope we will continue to see good weather, although hopefully not as hot as last year, so the following will need to be considered:

- A water bottle is essential to be able to stay hydrated.
- If it does get warm, there are many areas where shade can be found.
- We advise a sensible approach to physical activity at lunchtime to allow enough time to cool down before lessons.
- We are maintaining No Mow May, so those with allergy sensitivities need to remain considerate of where they are based in outside spaces.

I repeat again my appreciation for all those who have been supportive of staff and colleagues, and also of each other at a very difficult time, it is appreciated. The core messages we have given students is about the importance of routine and consistency, compassion and care. I hope those messages are maintained over half term as they are able to take a break.

I wish you all a calm and peaceful half term.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

EXTERNAL LINKS TO SUPPORT:

- **Winston's Wish:** childhood bereavement charity www.winstonswish.org
Call: 08088 202 021
- **E-Wellbeing:** a digital wellbeing service for young people. Has a module on grief
www.e-wellbeing.co.uk/modules/grief
- **Cruse bereavement Support:** <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>
- **Talk Grief- Home** (www.talkgrief.org)
- **Samaritans:** 24 hour listening support. Call: 116 123 email: jo@samaritans.org
- **SANE line:** help, support and information to anyone affected by mental health.
Call: 0300 304 7000 email: sanemail@sane.org.uk
- **Childline:** Free and confidential help for young people in the UK
www.childline.org.uk Call: 0800 1111
- **Young Minds:** free text messaging support for young people. Text YM to 58258
- **Sussex Mental Healthline:** 24-hour mental health telephone support.
Call: 0300 5000 101
- **Hub of Hope:** mental health support database www.hubofhope.co.uk
- **Child Bereavement UK-** www.childbereavementuk.org
- **The Mix-** [Speak To Our Team](#) | [Support For Mental Health & Other Issues](#) | [The Mix](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The first week of term back, all other dates check the calendar on the school website:
https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/?page_id=668920

Monday, 3 June	Start of Term 6
Tuesday, 4 June	Enrichment Week Parent Information Meeting - Snowdonia
Thursday, 6 June	Last Day for Year 11
	Year 12 Art Carne Griffiths Workshop
Friday, 7 June	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork Trip - Coasts