

13 December 2024

Dear Parents & Carers

A few reminders from my last letter which can be viewed [here](#):

- Easyfunding with your Christmas Shopping
- Voluntary One-Way System & Zig-Zag Lines
- Christmas Trees available at the end of term

Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 18 December both as a Main Meal and Grab & Go. There is no need to book in advance and the cost will be the same as usual. Please ensure your child has enough money on their account. A copy of the menus and prices are attached.

Christmas Carol Concert and Learning Support Christmas Fair: These events on Thursday 19 December are a fabulous way to show support for our young people and start the festive celebrations. Please come along and join in, in addition SOHCC are in need of donations for the raffle at the Carol Concert (please take to Reception), so as well as some joyous carols you may even go home with a prize!

College Executive Student Council: I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank the students of the Exec Council, Year Teams, and Form Representatives for their dedication and hard work this term. Their discussions and suggestions have been thoughtful, constructive, and incredibly helpful. The Lead Team has demonstrated genuine leadership in their roles, and as a result, the dialogue between staff and students continues to foster respect and mutual understanding. The outcomes from Term 2 meetings will be shared with students as usual, through assemblies, form reps, and on the plasma screens around College. I look forward to collaborating with them on some exciting projects next term.

Traffic Calming: There has been encouraging news of an agreement by ESCC Speed Management to reduce the limit on the Battle Road between Heathfield and Cade Street. If this is enacted, after consultation, it will see the successful outcome of years of lobbying by many concerned about the safety of our young people as they travel to school. Thank you to all who have supported this campaign and please do continue now to ensure it is enacted.

Performance Measures: The means by which schools can be compared has been made public recently and I am pleased to share this confirms that the College outcomes for 2024 represent great progress and achievement by our students, well above averages for national and local comparisons. Our key figures continue to be strong, but also importantly the achievement of groups of students, the most disadvantaged, those with special educational needs, the gaps between boys and girls all show that *all* students are able to do well at Heathfield regardless of their starting point. This makes us proud and we are appreciative of the collective work that ensures this continues year in year out. Thank you.



Distinguished School



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Top Tips for Online Safety over Christmas: If you are gifting phones or tablets over Christmas, consider the following:

- **Parental controls:** Most devices come with built-in features that allow you to restrict access to certain content, ensuring young people don't encounter anything inappropriate.
- **App and game age limits:** Be aware of the age ratings on apps and games, and do your research to ensure they align with your child's maturity level.

Over the Christmas period and beyond, it's also helpful to:

- **Set boundaries:** Establish limits for daily screen time and ensure there is enough time for family activities and bonding.
- **Protect sleep:** Remove devices from bedrooms at a certain hour, and agree on a specific time for gaming to stop in the evening to prevent it from affecting sleep.
- **Password management:** Keep track of passwords and have access to your child's device use to ensure transparency.
- **Monitor online activity:** Regularly check chat rooms and social media interactions to ensure that conversations remain positive, supportive, and respectful.

These steps can help balance the benefits of technology with healthy habits and family time during the holidays. This useful blog might stimulate some conversations: <http://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/i-spy/>. Do ask College next week if you want help and advice before the holiday.

Term 2 Headlines will be ready at the end of next week. Please do look out for this as it gives a taste of our students activities and achievements over Term 2.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

Monday 16 & Tuesday 17 December	Year 9 Wider Curriculum Days	
Thursday 19 December	Learning Support Christmas Fair	4.30-6pm
	2024 Alumni Certificate Evening	5.00-6.30pm
	Christmas Carol Concert with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies	6.00-7.00pm
Friday 20 December	End of Term 2 - please see letter regarding Christmas Arrangements	12.30pm
Monday 6 January	Start of Term 3	