



7 March 2025

Dear Parents & Carers

I would like express my gratitude for the many parents who have engaged with us over the last few weeks in such positive ways, both at Year 8 Options Fair and also in the Key Stage 3 Digital Learning Walk. It was a pleasure to see so many parents on site and enjoying genuine partnership with staff. More details are on [Latest News](#) on our website and on Facebook. Thank you, it is appreciated.

Rewards

We are looking at ways of increasing the range and type of rewards we give to students. We understand that everyone likes to be noticed and acknowledged for the effort they make and any improvements they have put effort into. Whilst there is evidence of an extensive use of Praises in and out of lessons, certificates and prizes at the end of term, we are exploring ways we can enhance this even further in more tangible ways.

We will be working with student leaders to finalise but it is worth reminding students that some of the qualities that will be considered include:

- Improvements in or consistently high attendance.
- Improvements in or consistently good focus and engagement in lessons.

There are 4 weeks of this term left and plenty of opportunity to secure an improvement or consistency-based reward. Please encourage your child to focus on both!

Mobile Phones - A Reminder

As you know, our policy on mobile phones is that students can have them for travel to and from school but they must be turned off and put away during the school day. Most students follow this rule, and it has worked well. Some schools are either banning them from site completely or asking students to hand in phones at the start of the day with equipment to store them in.

We prefer not to use our limited resources to introduce the storage systems for this at the moment. We would however remind all students of the following important three points:

1. Phones should be off and in bags by 8:33am, and not seen or used again until after school.
2. Any phone seen during the school day will be confiscated for the day (*including held or visible in blazer pockets for example*) as they should not be seen at all.



Distinguished School



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

3. If a student repeatedly breaks the rule, repeatedly has their phone visible or uses their phone inappropriately, they may not be allowed to bring their phone to school anymore.

Thank you for your help as we balance both the positive and negative effects of phones on young people, as well as consideration for those in rural settings.

Contributions and Donations

The contributions and donations received by College are really appreciated and used to purchase a range of materials and experiences that represent an added extra for students.

Recent examples include a range of external speakers including Olympians, TV's Apprentice Programme finalists, Influencers and Motivational Experts as well as refreshing the chairs for the exam hall to comfortable padded seats.

There are a variety of ways you can do this:

- **Voluntary Donations:** There is a new method on Arbor for making a Voluntary Contribution to the College. You can now make any value donation you wish. This is now found on the payments section of the Arbor app in the same location as Charities and Meal top up. If you wish to make a donation, please select this option (a guide is attached). Please take care when paying on Arbor that you are selecting the correct item. If you need further advice on how to make payments on Arbor please contact our Finance office for support at financeoffice@heathfieldcc.co.uk.
- **EasyFundRaising:**
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/heathfieldcommunitycollege/>
This website exists to donate additional funds to schools, among other groups, when their supporters shop online. If you are able to sign up and use this portal to online shop then the College automatically gets donations.
- **Pay it Forward:** We are looking at a method of allowing families to donate a little bit extra when paying for trips and enrichment which will create a fund that allows us to support those who experiencing more difficult circumstances. This will be visible when ready on the Arbor portal (it's not there yet) and we will let you know as it is available for each trip.

Thank you for all you support, it makes a genuine difference.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

w/b 10 March 2025	Year 10 Mocks & Year 11 Mocks
Monday 10 & Tuesday 11 March 2025	GCSE Drama Exam to Examiner
Wednesday 12 March & Thursday 13 March 2025	The Big Dance (Primary & HCC Dance students)
w/b 17 March 2025	Year 12 Mocks
	BTech Creative Media Exams
Thursday 20 March 2025	Year 9 Time Out Presentation
	Year 9 Subject Feedback Evening