



5 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Federation Consultation**

I am writing to update you on the consultation that took place in the summer term on forming a Federation between Heathfield, Claverham and Chailey schools, and to explain the next steps for Heathfield Community College.

### **Consultation Outcome**

The consultation in June 2025 gathered a wide range of views across all three schools. Many parents and carers, including those from Heathfield, recognised potential benefits in a Federation. The next stage would have been for the three schools to work together on responding to questions and forming the structure of the Federation.

However, following the appointment of a new Headteacher at Chailey, their governing body decided to pause the consultation process. In September, Claverham governors also chose to pause. Neither decision reflected any lack of desire to work with Heathfield and they asked to keep working closely together going forward. Heathfield governors have, of course, respected these decisions. As we approach the date when the Federation would have begun, we felt it important to share this news with you.

### **The Wider Context**

As many of you know, schools are facing significant pressures nationally and locally, including funding challenges, curriculum changes, accountability requirements and the much-anticipated review of SEND provision. As governors, it is our responsibility to support the College to meet these challenges and to protect the long-term interests of Heathfield's students, staff and community.

To that end we continue to believe that strong, local partnerships will be vital in the future. Structural partnerships, accountable to our stakeholders, encourage innovation, would share expertise and help schools manage limited funding and increasing demands. For example, by sharing best practice with regards to SEND, inclusion and curriculum development. Partnerships, we believe, are a way for us to maximise any available local funding and extend purchasing power to deliver the best resources for students, staff and families in the face of these challenges ahead.



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

## So, What Happens Next?

In January, governors and senior leaders will begin work on a new strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. This plan will:

- build on the college's huge strengths and identify areas for development
- take account of regional and national changes as outlined above
- reflect current research and best practice from across the UK
- respond to the expected government White Paper on school partnerships, SEND etc.

This strategic plan will guide future school improvement priorities and set goals to ensure a sustainable and successful future for the College.

## Governance

Linked to this we will be expanding our governing body and inviting applications shortly. We will share details of the skills and experience we are seeking, and we really encourage you to consider applying if you feel able to contribute.

## Thank You

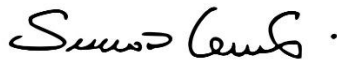
Thank you for your feedback and engagement throughout this process - it was much appreciated. It is clear that our community shares a strong commitment to Heathfield and to providing high-quality education for all young people. We will keep this at the heart of all future planning and any future partnership discussions.

Thank you again for your patience and ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



**MR R ENOCK**  
Chair of Governors



**MR S LEWIS**  
Vice Chair of Governors