



27 January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

I am very pleased to write to you and share some good news. Last week, we received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson.

The letter congratulates our staff and pupils on the great results achieved by disadvantaged pupils in the 2024/25 school year. These results place Heathfield Community College among the top schools in the country.

Such success shows the hard work and high standards of our whole school community. This includes our teachers, support staff, parents, and especially our students, who worked extremely hard to achieve these results.

This success is not a one-off. For the past three years, disadvantaged students at Heathfield have done better than similar students across the country and at least as well as 'all' students. We see the same strong results for SEND students and very little difference between the results of boys and girls. We are also proud of the continued success for our high-attaining students, many of whom go on to our Sixth Form and to top universities or apprenticeships. The strong results for all our students was one of the reasons Ofsted said our work on inclusion was exceptional.

We know this success is not because of one person or one team. It comes from everyone working together: students, school staff and families at home. We are very proud of everyone involved and very thankful for the ongoing support of our families, our community and all staff at Heathfield Community College.

We are confident that the 2026 results will be just as strong. Year 10 and 11 are working hard and we will continue to support, care for and challenge them on their way. We will work closely with you as parents/carers to help them be ready for the best possible future.

Thank you for all the support you give our school, ensuring that students attend, work hard and feel supported to achieve their goals. We are very proud of them all.

Yours sincerely

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher



Distinguished School



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

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear Caroline,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Heathfield Community College achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with [your region's RISE networks](#) and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget Phillipson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education