

16 January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

Thank you to all for another successful few weeks at College, students remain focused and engaged with the opportunities available to them. They are, with your support, doing a fantastic job of staying focused on their goals. We are proud of them.

### Attendance and Punctuality

We would also like to thank parents for their support in ensuring attendance of students at school remains strong. Every day counts and being in school matters. It is a vital pillar of students' success and access to opportunities that build relationships and confidence.

Punctuality is also an important life skill valued by employers, every moment in lessons and learning is vital; repeated lateness or absence can lead to significant learning loss and affects the GCSE grades students achieve. As always, individual circumstances and reasonable adjustments can be discussed with your pastoral teams if you are concerned.

### Equality and Diversity

Central to our core vision and values is that Heathfield is a positive and inclusive environment. We have been committed to this work for many years, constantly reflecting and changing our approaches, as society changes. We work closely with outside agencies to gain advice and expertise. We do understand that young people sometimes make mistakes, as part of growing up. Mostly these can be dealt with sensitively and privately with a combination of consequence, support and education.

However, it is important our core message is clear and transparent; discrimination is not tolerated at Heathfield. In the last month, we have had cause to manage a small number of incidents of racist and misogynistic language towards staff and/or students. We are clear this is completely unacceptable and has no part in our culture.

Whilst ongoing student voice tells us this is not the norm for most and students both value and strongly advocate for our inclusive and compassionate environment, it is clear that for some, this benefits needs restating. It is important that reporting of *any* issues happens. This allows us to act on isolated serious incidents and also on casual comments that, left unchallenged, gradually erode trust and safety, impacting the ethos and experience for all.

Communication underpins our [Recognise: Report: Respond](#) approach which is vital to our collective responsibility. We are very appreciative of the ongoing support from parents for this work, our staff and all our young people.



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

## Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support

We are pleased to let you know that we have launched two new pages on the College website focused on supporting and protecting our students.

Our [Mental Health and Wellbeing page](#) outlines how we nurture students' emotional health, the support available in school, external agencies outside of school and new and updated websites to support all areas of young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Keeping our students safe is at the heart of everything we do. Our [Safeguarding page](#) provides clear information about how we keep students safe and who to contact if you have any concerns both during school hours and outside of school hours.

## Mobile Phones

It might be useful to give a reminder of the College approach to mobile phones, in the light of increasing conversation about banning from school altogether. The College policy is that students do not have their phones taken away from them at College **as long as** they are **not seen at all, in any way, after 8:35am**, at which point they are removed and returned at the end of the day. Students who repeatedly have their phones confiscated are either banned from having their phone at all or have to hand it in on entry to the College.

These approaches have proven effective over the last 10 years; data evidence, student voice and even the recent Ofsted inspection feedback tell us they are universally complied with, with minimal exceptions. To invest in lockable pouches or other solutions would cost upwards of £25,000 - resources we would far rather use on wellbeing services and mental health support.

They also do not address the bigger issue which is children's use of phones and social media outside of school, something we address together as a community through education and collaborative approaches between school and parents. We want young people to grow up digitally aware but not digitally dependent. We are very grateful to parents for their support of our approaches and the culture that students adopt.

## Support for Exam Year groups

Students in Year 10 and 11 and students in KS5 have mock exams prior to Easter. All exam timetables can be found on [this page](#) under "Information for Candidates".

Parents and carers can play an active role in exam preparation in a number of ways:

- Help and guidance relating to effective revision strategies (including how to construct a revision timetable) can be [found here](#)
- KS4 revision resources for each subject (checklists, exam papers and revision resources) can be [found here](#)

Thank you to all parents and carers who consistently show their support for the College, its values and community. The reciprocal dialogue and positive engagement is vital to help us in our pursuit to continually improve, thank you.

Yours sincerely



**MS C BARLOW**  
Headteacher

## DIARY DATES

Please check Term 3 Clubs and Interventions by going to the following link on our website:  
<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/news-and-events/extra-curricular-activities>

w/b 19 January 2026	School Production	Tickets available on Arbor, School Shop and on the door
	House Competition - Battle of the Bands	
Wednesday 28 January 2026	Main School Open Morning	Booking is essential - please see our website for other dates and how to book: <a href="http://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/join-us/open-mornings">www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/join-us/open-mornings</a> .
w/b 26 January 2026 - 13 February 2026	Year 10 & 11 Mocks	
Thursday 5 February 2026	Year 8 Subject Feedback Evening	More details to follow
Friday 13 February 2026	End of Term 3	
Monday 23 February 2026	Start of Term 4	