

17 April 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

Well done to all Year 10, 11 and 13 for their hard work over Easter, the reports from teaching staff of revision work are strong and will serve them well in the coming weeks.

Thank you to parents for the **strong attendance** at the start of this term - this really does matter and all efforts to work with us are hugely appreciated. Whether every day counting now for exam groups or the routines and habits formed in Key Stage 3, strong school attendance underpins all success and we really appreciate the support of parents in this.

No Mow May and Allergies

As we are due to open the school field soon can we remind all students and parents/carers of the need to self-manage in terms of proximity to grasses and pollens?

We will be implementing the usual “No-Mow May” and as such will make clear to students which areas will be left for pollinators and natural growth - please see attached. Could parents/carers of students with serious allergies ensure the adrenaline pens they carry on them are ‘in-date’ (the ones in school are checked regularly and we will be in touch as they near expiry).

If any student, who suffers from hay fever, needs medication for this in school, please could you fill in the [Administration of Medicines](#) form and return to Welfare, with the medication, so that we can keep it safe, and provide if needed. We are not allowed by law to give out ANY medication not provided by a student’s parent/carer without a signed consent form, even simple things like painkillers or antihistamines.

May we also remind you that students should not be carrying medication on their person in school, except for a few emergency medications such as asthma inhalers and adrenaline pens, when Welfare should be made aware that they have them.

In addition, a standard reminder that as we have students with severe, life-threatening nut allergies, please ensure that any food brought into College for packed lunches, bake sales or events held in the College do not contain nuts or nut-based products.

'What I wish my parents or carers knew...':

A guide for parents and carers on children's digital lives (Children's Commissioner)

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a guide to help parents and carers navigate the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits. Written with direct input from children and young people, including teenagers consulted in schools and the Commissioner's Youth Ambassadors. The guide is designed to make difficult conversations easier and more regular.



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The guide covers setting boundaries around phone use, talking about harmful content, and building ongoing communication that goes beyond a one-off conversation. The voice of young people runs through it, including this from one teenager:

"Don't be afraid to be firm... If you are worried your child is seeing harmful content and you don't know what they're watching and it's affecting their behaviour, just take it that you know best, they don't."

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives>

Mobile Phones

Thank you to all parents for their support and reminders to students about the need to remove mobiles during the school day: switched off and in bags. This has been very successful in confirming school is a phone free environment as the government and Ofsted are clear should be the case.

We have been equally clear with students they cannot even be in pockets; it must be in their bag and out of reach. We will always confiscate if seen. We are reviewing arrangements for 2026-27 in consultation with other local schools and will update before the end of the year.

Revision Support for Exam Year Groups

Students are doing well in classes and teachers are encouraged by their effort and work ethic. We would like to remind that there are a few key elements which, if in place now will make a big difference in the summer:

- **Good attendance:** students need to be in lessons to benefit from the expertise of their teachers. All our research shows attendance of under 94% (or more than 2 days absence per half term) can result in up to 2 grades lower outcome across their subjects. Do contact us to help if you need to.
- **A revision timetable:** Having this in place early makes a big difference to managing time, revision content and reducing stress. There is guidance on the website to help:
<https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Revision-Timetables.pdf>

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher

DIARY DATES

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

w/c 20 April 2026	GCSE & A Level Practical & Non-Timetabled Exams continue
w/c 27 April 2026	House Competition: Baking
Monday 4 May 2026	May Bank Holiday