



6 July 2026
ADA/Transition 2026/#cab

Dear Parents & Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Heathfield Community College at the beginning of your child's journey through secondary education.

Parent Handbook

All key information about the College, including our Parent Handbook 2026/27, can be found on our website <https://www.heathfieldcc.co.uk/transition2026>. The information in the booklet is designed to help parents support their child to settle into College life. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the College and we will arrange for a copy to be made available to you.

Uniform, Equipment, Haircuts & Jewellery

As you may be aware, the Government has introduced new guidance to reduce the number of school-branded uniform items. The aim is to help lower the cost of school uniforms for families.

As a result, we have made some changes to the Heathfield uniform for the 2026-27 school year. The policy for 2026-27 is set out in the Parent handbook (page 8) and has been shared with existing parents on a few occasions, most recently [26 June](#).

The main changes are:

- Black PE bottoms and $\frac{3}{4}$ zip jumper (can no longer be Heathfield branded - and must be plain black with no logos or branding)
- Black V-neck optional jumper (can no longer be Heathfield branded version - and must be a plain black cotton blend version)

We are aware that these changes may affect some families of students starting Year 7 in September 2026, if you have already:

- Purchased Heathfield-branded PE bottoms, PE jumper and/or the previous V-neck jumper from SOHCC
- or
- Passed these items on from an older sibling or another family member



Distinguished School



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Cade Street, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8RJ Website: www.heathfieldcc.co.uk

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

Branded items cannot be worn by Year 7 in September 2026 in line with the DfE guidance, however, we do not wish to incur unnecessary expense and so if either of these circumstances applies to you, please get in touch with us. We have options available to help that we can discuss with you.

Please check the Parent Handbook (see link above) to ensure that you are clear on guidelines around haircuts, hair colour and jewellery.

Languages

If your child is in Tutor Groups 7H, 7E, 7A or 7T they will be studying French.

If they are in 7C, 7D, 7L or 7M they will study Spanish.

Catering & Lunch

On the first day, students must bring either a packed lunch or cash/card to use at the canteen. During the day, students who have parent/guardian permission on Arbor will have their thumbprints taken. Please note that after the first day, cash and cards will no longer be accepted.

Arbor

We are inviting you to log onto the Arbor Parent Portal to review and provide the necessary parental consents for your child. These consents cover areas such as biometric consent for lunches, use of photographs and access to digital learning platforms, which are essential for your child's full participation in school activities.

What You Need to Do:

- **Log in to Arbor:** Please visit the parents tab from the [college website](#) and click on Arbor (select first time logging in if you do not have access to Arbor via another child already being enrolled in the college) and sign in using the email address you have registered with the school. If you are struggling to log in and need assistance, please contact itsupport@heathfieldcc.co.uk.
- **Review Consents:**
Once logged in, click the green 'view student profile' button on the parent portal, which will give you an overview of the details held. Navigate to the 'Consents' section and carefully review each item and indicate your consent by Monday 7 July. If you need any additional guidance around the consents, please contact ecollis@heathfieldcc.co.uk.

Parental Contributions

We acknowledge that this can be an expensive time of year and we are all being affected by the cost-of-living price increases; however, we want to assure you that what is presented below is what we believe to be the totality of contributions that we will request at this stage. In addition to the contributions listed, various trips and events will be available to students to attend throughout the year at additional costs if they would like to take part. Details about these and Enrichment Week will be sent out separately.

NEW YEAR 7 SEPTEMBER 2026		
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	Includes contributions for some dry cooking ingredients and workshop materials	£13.20*
ART	Entitles your child to two A4 sketchbooks - one for Year 7 and one for Year 8	£3.50*
LOCKER (Not compulsory)	This is the cost to use a locker for five years from Year 7 and equates to £1 per term. Lockers will be distributed in September once payment has been made on a first come first served basis	£30.00*
MATHS	Casio fx83GT CW+ (or CW) scientific calculator - to ensure that the correct functionality is available for students	£9.00*
MATILDA THEATRE TRIP	We are running a trip to London to see Matilda for all of Year 7 in January 2026 and a letter will follow shortly giving further details. The cost of the trip will be approximately £47 and we are asking for a £15 deposit at this stage as we have to secure tickets	£47.00 (£15 deposit at this stage) Please click here to view the letter sent to you earlier. Please note that the deadline for paying the deposit is Monday 6 July at mid-day.

*Payment for these items can be made on the Arbor School Shop

Heathfield Voluntary Parental Donation for College Fund

A voluntary contribution from parents will enable the College to provide students with opportunities and experiences that would not otherwise be possible. For example:

Motivational and inspirational speakers and activities for all year groups

Additional well-being support and resources

Resources for students agreed through the School Council. Examples include additional sports equipment, outside benching and more comfortable exam chairs.

Parents are invited to make a payment of £25 via Arbor. This is a suggested figure and is not limited to this amount. The funds received via this voluntary donation scheme will be ring-fenced for the activities and resources as previously stated. We fully understand if you are unable to make this contribution at this time. The payment will stay on your Arbor account and if you are able to make a contribution at a later date this would be very much appreciated.

Keeping you Informed

Keeping you informed is an important aspect of working together. Our College website is updated regularly at www.heathfieldcc.co.uk. Here you will find copies of letters sent to parents and updates on parent feedback we receive through our questionnaires. Headlines, the College newsletter, can also be found here.

Latest news and regular updates to the College calendar and news on events that are taking place can also be found on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Heathfield-Community-College>

Communication

Communication is really important, even over the simple things. If you are at all concerned about your child's progress or welfare, never hesitate to contact us, please don't leave it. Your child's Form Tutor is both the first point of contact at the College and the adult who oversees your child's academic and social well-being. In addition to the form tutor you can also contact Mrs Collinge, Pastoral Manager, who will be able to offer support and guidance on pastoral matters.

Supporters of Heathfield Community College (SOHCC)

The SOHCC are a much-valued part of our team. As well as running the pre-loved uniform supply and selling refreshments at some College events they also help raise money for the College in the future. They also have pop-up shops and these will be advertised on their Facebook page. If you would like to be part of this group from September, please email office@heathfieldcc.co.uk and we will put you in touch with them.

I look forward to working in a successful partnership as this is the best way of helping your child to succeed. We will do our best to see that your child has a happy and successful life at Heathfield Community College.

We wish all our students and their families an enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing them on Friday 4 September 2026.

Yours sincerely



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