How to choose the right secondary school for your child

Heathfield Community College's Lead Prefect Team discuss key opportunities and experiences to consider for parents and students when choosing the right school.

The Quality of Outcomes

At Heathfield we are proud of the sense of community and belonging our students experience, however exam results still stand as a healthy measure of a schools' determination to not only educate but also motivate students to achieve their best.

One important thing to note is that pure results are not always the best way to showcase academic success. It is also important to also look at the progression students have made since joining the school.

Heathfield students consistently achieve highly at GCSE and A Level. GCSE performance has not only been among the highest in the county for years but also in the top 20% nationally for progress and attainment, far above the countrywide average.

A Level results are consistently in the top 20% nationally; around 90% of students got into their first-choice university and regularly 40% of students achieve Russell Group university places or establishments of equal repute in their field.

Heathfield students leave having secured places on the more competitive courses at the most competitive centres, whether university, employment or training.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

It has been proven that if your children enjoy what they are studying they will be more likely to succeed.
Heathfield offers a great range of subjects with the opportunity to fully explore and engage with the subject, giving them the best chance of achievement possible.

Heathfield also offers a wide range of trips that are comprehensive and importantly, affordable. The college offers a broad range of extra-curricular opportunities. The **Heathfield Experience** entitlement ensures everyone is able to access rich and varied opportunities across all years that develop their Pride, Ambition and sense of Community.

Every child can find like-minded friends, whilst developing valuable skills through our advanced **Student Leadership** programs, learning precious skills for life.

Digital Confidence

Every student has access to a digital devise offering limitless new methods of revision, study and active learning approaches never thinkable before. This means not only are students digitally confident they also know how to self-manage and keep themselves safe as they engage with technology.

The Quality of Teaching

When Year 11s leave as young adults they often share fond memories of inspiring teachers who are truly passionate and enthusiastic about their specialist subject.

Teaching staff at Heathfield have the support and motivation they need to inspire students, throughout their college life, to produce the highest quality classwork, homework and exam results. Their full subject knowledge is inclusive and interactive. Lessons are planned to clear expectations for learning, so your children are always aware of how to improve with clear goals to achieve in the future.

The Learning Environment

When a school's design is modern, with a positive atmosphere, staff and pupils alike are uplifted to work even harder on the topics they love.

Heathfield's environment is vibrant and positive with the words of famous and inspirational people alongside the achievements of students. Regular modernisation and improvement of the site keeps it fresh and well maintained. Students accept and share the responsibility to look after our surroundings as well as considering our impact on the wider world, spearheaded by our fantastic Eco-Reps and Community Prefect Team.

Behaviour Expectations, Pastoral Care & Site Safety

Without a feeling of safety, comfort and engagement, nobody can thrive in their learning at school. At Heathfield, there has always been a powerful staff-student relationship, based on embedded trust and respect, which encourages an open communication channel. Heads of Year and the Pastoral Team are the first point of contact if any students have any academic or pastoral concerns.

Additionally, there is a team of non-teaching staff whose sole responsibility is the welfare and care of students, available throughout the day. As well as a wealth of additional external support workers from both inside and outside College. Behaviour at Heathfield is monitored through a consequence - based system where students are also recognised for their achievements every lesson.

We feel safe and happy in our time at College knowing there is a community of support both, staff and peers, available to us.

How the School is Led

Our leadership team share the same core belief, creating the climate that means everyone can thrive. They take a proactive approach which is clearly produces great results.

Ofsted have recognised this numerous times, during their last visit in May 2023 they endorsed our motto *"Pride. Ambition. Community"*, describing it as a *"daily lived experience"* and rating the school as Outstanding in many core aspects, including leadership. We can see there is a clear vision for us to be the very best we can be.

Expectations are ambitious for everyone. We all hold the knowledge

that staff and leaders believe we have the ability and potential to become the stars of the future, who change lives for everyone.

Heathfield is committed to help students achieve the greatest heights of their potential because every student matters. Our thriving Alumni network shows how connected and appreciative students feel as they remain a part of our community long after leaving the College.

Selecting a secondary school can be a tough decision but when it is right it can unlock an entire world of opportunity and success.