Heathfield
Community College and Sixth Form

Prospectus 2027

“Pupils flourish here [and]….receive a great education.” (Ofsted 2023)

Welcome

to Heathfield Community College

I am delighted to welcome you to Heathfield Community College, a high performing secondary school and Sixth Form, which I am privileged to lead.

Every child deserves to go to an excellent school. At Heathfield we enable students to be happy and to become the best versions of themselves, making exceptional academic progress whatever their ability or circumstances.

Our long standing success is based on a strong sense of community, high expectations and mutual respect. Students are well known and well supported. They develop a firm identity with College values and a sense of responsibility for one another.

Committed and experienced staff provide inspiring teaching and the very best learning environment for all our students, who apply a purposeful focus to their innovative and ambitious curriculum. Heathfield has a proven track record of success for student outcomes and their subsequent destinations.

This is an exceptional learning environment, a vibrant community where young people can flourish, developing the self-esteem and resilience needed for their success. An impressive variety of rich enrichment opportunities encourage students to think widely and deeply about their learning and the world. The College is noted for exceptional personal development.

Students are happy here; they succeed more than they ever thought possible and go on to become “active, responsible young people, who are very well prepared for life in modern Britain.” (Ofsted 2023)

“Pupils feel safe at school. They are exceptionally well cared for. Parents and pupils praise the very high quality of pastoral care at the school.” (Ofsted)

Pride

Our College is going from strength to strength. In every recent inspection Ofsted have confirmed the tangible sense of pride, ambition and community within the College, described in 2023 as the “daily lived reality”.

We have every reason to be proud of our learning environment, set within a 26-acre site on the edge of Heathfield with a beautiful setting and spacious layout. Generous learning spaces exist for all across the College and extensive sporting facilities, alongside independent study spaces for the Sixth Form.

As an Apple Distinguished School we are proud of the breadth of technology across the College. Flexible approaches to learning are an everyday experience supporting students to be independent, creative and digitally healthy.

The College has an excellent reputation for its high standard of music, art and drama, and there are regular public performances locally, nationally and internationally, including our student-led Radio Heathfield and Heathfield TV.

Extensive sporting facilities along with excellent coaching lead to a strong sporting reputation. However, a range of opportunities mean all students are supported to develop active healthy lifestyles whilst at College.

“This school is amazing in every area. I feel blessed to have it on my doorstep. My first two children have thrived here and the next ones are desperately waiting to get here!” ***Parent***

Extra-curricular activities, clubs and enrichment opportunities embrace a wide spectrum of interests, developing character, confidence and the capacity to succeed.

There really is something for everyone and often it is led by students for students. Leadership is a real strength of the College “Pupils benefit from a wealth of leadership opportunities. They relish taking on these important roles…[and] make a real difference to continually improving life at their school”. (Ofsted 2023). We are proud that our students develop the skills to find their place in the world with confidence.

‘Ambition and breadth; high-quality experiences both in and out of lessons are carefully designed to develop the knowledge and characteristics needed to be able to access, succeed and thrive at the highest levels.’

Ambition

At Heathfield we are unashamedly ambitious for our students. We want to give them the very best launchpad for their future. The outstanding outcomes that our students achieve open as many doors as possible to them as young adults.

Our innovative and ambitious curriculum prepares students to excel, wherever their next steps may take them. A clear ethos of high expectations means students are expected to apply themselves fully to their studies and reap the rewards of hard work as a result.

A core academic curriculum for students aged 11 – 16 is broad and balanced and prepares them for progression into further education/ training. Our digital curriculum further complements the development of vital skills such as extended writing, confident oracy and the development of core knowledge.

At GCSE and A Level, students have pathways through the curriculum that closely match their needs, challenging them to ensure they achieve the best qualifications, exam results and destinations that they can.

Key Stage 4 is spaced to enables pace and challenge relevant to the subject as well as extensive enrichment opportunities which broaden the experience and enjoyment of learning. Vital skills such as oracy, creativity, collaboration, communication, problem solving and resilience are developed through subject specific contexts.

"The school supports us to become academically successful but also builds our confidence and responsibility. It feels our school excels in every aspect." ***Student***

The wider curriculum is impressively broad, often leading to regional, national and international experiences. Educational visits are many and varied, designed to broaden horizons and raise aspirations. Academic excellence is evident across all year groups in and out of lessons, regular Wider Curriculum Days and Enrichment Weeks ensure our students receive a broad and balanced education throughout their time at College, irrespective of examination choices. Students at Heathfield recognise and value the benefits of such a wide range of opportunities.

“Pupils feel happy and safe in this vibrant and nurturing school. They know that the well-regarded pastoral team will help them with any problems” (Ofsted 2023)

Community

Heathfield is a warm and welcoming community. This is no accident - we take great pride in our culture and ethos.

Every student is well-known and supported by their Tutor. Heads of Year monitor the progress and wellbeing of their year group. Non-teaching Pastoral Managers ensure support and care is available whenever needed.

We promote a strong sense of self-worth combined with a respect for others. Peer support is a strength of the College; from transition into Year 7 and throughout their time at the College there are multiple opportunities for students to support each other and work together within a genuine community.

"We are a community and you feel like you belong." ***Student***

The Learning Support Department ensures that both the formal and informal curriculum is accessible to all students. A department of specialists with a dedicated suite of rooms provides training and advice so that teaching and support staff are confident in meeting a range of needs.

"This is a fantastic school with high academic standards and excellent pastoral care."
Ofsted Parent View Survey

We believe strongly in the power of the partnership we share with parents. Good communication, both informal and formal, is an important part in the support enjoyed by each student, providing valuable information and feedback. Parents are also warmly invited to take a more proactive role, where possible, working collaboratively to ensure the development of the College.

“The Sixth Form is very successful. Students participate enthusiastically in lessons. Students achieve well in a wide range of A Levels. They are fully involved in the life of the school.” (Ofsted)

Sixth Form

Heathfield Sixth Form has an established reputation for excellent results which have consistently placed us in the top 20% of colleges nationally. This is a product of high quality A Level teaching and excellent support.

Our high expectations ensure Heathfield students are ambitious and aspire to join our post-16 provision from a young age alongside students from other local secondary schools.

Our Sixth Form enjoys great facilities, including the Learning Resource Centre, a Sixth Form quiet study area, a well stocked Library, Café 6 and a Common Room where students can meet, enjoy a coffee or work in a more informal setting.

Sixth Form students also play an active part in wider school life. A successful mentoring programme partners Year 7 students with sixth formers on a weekly basis, allowing for active discussions about lessons, homework and social lives.

Through the enrichment and wider experiences students are able to develop their skills by involving themselves in a range of different activities including sport, debating, creative writing and the College leadership strands.

Our students enjoy the independence and more adult approaches of the Sixth Form. They are aspirational and ambitious to succeed in their life beyond Heathfield.

"The curriculum prepares pupils for the next stage in their education well. As a result of expert teaching, students in the Sixth Form achieve exceptionally well." (Oftsed 2023)

The vast majority go on to study at their first choice University, often Russell Group or Oxbridge, while others secure high quality degree apprenticeships, apprenticeships or employment. Post 16 study at Heathfield is a fantastic launch pad for a successful future, as testified by the many Alumni who come back to advise, support and pass on the baton to their younger peers.

Ours is a community that endures beyond school years.

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