



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA



20th December 2017



Dear Parent/Carer



What a term! Pupils and staff have worked really hard this term to make sure that progress and achievement is a priority in all lessons. As you know, our vision is clear - that everyone at Heathcote should be challenged and stretched, as well as becoming self-aware, self-motivated and self-confident. There have been some amazing successes this term in lessons, in the community and also on the sports field and many pupils have shown a spirit and passion that makes me, and should make you, very proud. These successes are celebrated in the newsletter and can be found regularly in the Latest News section of the website. Don't forget our Twitter account as well for instant updates about school life (@Heathcotee4). There are a lot of changes planned over the next year and we will be informing you of these via meetings and letters and, in some cases, asking for your feedback about what else we can do to make this school the best it can be. You will also be asked to complete a survey early in the term about some specific issues, including the dining experiences as we know this needs to change. Ofsted are likely to visit next term and we will be honest with them about all the positive things and the things that we need to improve.



Reports are being sent out later today via Parent App. Details of how to access this are again attached – please make sure that you access this as it tells you how your son/daughter is doing in school and enables you to have conversations with them about their learning which I encourage on a regular basis. Please contact particular staff if you have any issues and you can always make an appointment to meet me or a member of SLT at the weekly School Surgery on a Monday. Year 10 Parents Evening is also on 11th January and we expect all of you to attend to work with the school to support your child's progress. Year 11 will receive their Mock results early next term as well which is a key point for them to recognise their success and learn where they need to improve. Year 13 pupils also have exams immediately after they return to school.



supporting individual excellence



We expect all pupils back in full school uniform on Thursday 4th January 2018 – we will be sending pupils home with a letter if they are not dressed properly and please make sure that pupils do not return with 'bling' or diamante earrings as these are not part of the school uniform. One pair of plain small gold or silver studs are all that is permitted. Please continue to support our drive for better behaviour in the community, on the buses and in local businesses as there are still too many complaints from people that live locally.



A final request – if your child has any friendship issues that emerge, please contact the school and work with us to resolve these. We have too many parents who feel it is appropriate to approach the parents/carers direct (often in an aggressive way) and this is obviously unacceptable. In addition, if you are unhappy with anything in school, please talk to us and we will resolve this together. Please don't discuss this negatively with your children and create a 'them and us' attitude. We all want the same thing at the end of the



day which is for pupils to be safe, happy and make good progress so please work with us not against us. Some sensible advice from a recent article in the Guardian:

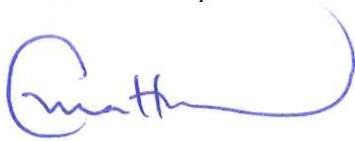
Things do go wrong. We expect you to tell us if you have concerns and we expect to have to deal with all sorts of issues, so don't let things fester until you're angry. When something goes wrong, please don't shout down the phone, or cause a scene in reception.

Don't believe everything your child tells you about school – even stories that are corroborated by other children. They know how to press your buttons, and how to deflect blame from themselves. Don't explode and promise blood. Calmly find out from school what happened. The minute children learn that you will happily make the school's life hell rather than theirs, they will become very difficult to manage. You will regret this.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas holiday and a relaxing time with family and friends.

Best wishes and thank you for all your support. I look forward to the journey of making this school even bigger and better in 2018.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma Hillman', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Emma Hillman
Headteacher