



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA
11th July 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

Encourage - Challenge - Succeed



As you are aware, I will be keeping you updated over the next two weeks and at the start of term with changes that we are putting in place to ensure that we continually improve and ensure the best life chances and outcomes for your children. This letter contains some of this important information.



We are now fully staffed with specialist staff for September and it's great that our new recruits have chosen to come and work at Heathcote. They are as excited about the journey the school is on as the Governors and I. This is a very positive position to be in when there is such a significant teacher recruitment crisis in London.



We have a number of new staff starting in September; and a number of leavers. I have discussed these changes with all pupils and urged them to build good relationships with their new teachers. We wish all leavers well in their new schools, and new careers in some cases and full details of all joiners and leavers will be in the end of term newsletter.

Heathcote's Senior Leadership Team



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome three new members of our Leadership Team who will be helping to lead and develop the school. Ms Close has already joined us at the start of July from Walthamstow Academy and she is responsible for Behaviour, Safety and Outcomes and will be writing the new Behaviour Policy ready for September. Mr Abbot, will be joining us in September, and is from Mark Hall Academy in Essex, and will be responsible for Learning, Teaching and Development. Ms Tobia, our new Head of Sixth Form, also joins us at the start of the academic year from Swanlea School. We say goodbye and thank you to Mr Patel (Deputy Head) and Mr McCarney (Head of Sixth Form) who leaves us to manage a Sixth Form closer to home.



supporting individual excellence



Ms Close and Mr Abbot

New Heads of Year

We are introducing Heads of Year from September in all years and these staff will be responsible for overseeing the standards in the year group and ensuring gaps are narrowed. There will be an opportunity to meet these staff at Parent Information Evenings early next term and contact details will be on the website:



Year	Head of Year
7	Ms Shorter
8	Ms Page (new member of staff)
9	Ms Gasper
10	Ms Kee Rose
11	Ms Gite
12/13	Ms Lewis



Pupils are also aware of some key changes to learning and teaching including an increased focus on stretch and challenge and Heathcote non-negotiables that will be present in every lesson such as Do Now activities. The new Behaviour Policy will also be much clearer and more transparent to ensure there is no disruption to learning.

Changes to Tutor Groups in current Year 7 and 8

As discussed with some of you recently, we will be making some changes to tutor groups in the current Year 7 and 8. This is because many classes are taught in tutor groups and so we need to ensure the groups are arranged to the current arrangements to ensure the best environment for learning. We know from experience that this leads to inequality in progress and achievement between groups. I have discussed these changes with the pupils and have reassured them that this will give them better learning opportunities while still being able to spend time with their friends in between lessons. We plan to inform pupils of their new Tutor Groups before the end of term. Please do contact me if you would like further information or have any concerns.

School Uniform

Attached is guidance about the new uniform including the new PE kit and where these items can be purchased. If you need any financial assistance to purchase these items, please contact the school as we have a small hardship fund or can signpost you to local charities that can help. This information has also been updated on the website.

Further information to parents before summer break

As you know, the catering will be managed by Waltham Forest from September and we will send you further information about this before the end of term. We are moving towards a cashless school and all payment by food will be by PIN number so it is important the pay function in ParentMail is kept topped up. We will also be sending further information including a request for our School Fund and new arrangements for paying for Food Technology ingredients.

We look forward to a great set of Year 11 and Year 13 results this summer.

Finally, a general reminder to please make sure that you keep an eye on ParentMail to ensure you are not missing out on key information. The newsletter will also be published before the end of term with a welcome from our new Chair of Governors, Amanda Roper. I would like to thank Ian Moyes on behalf of the school for all the work he has done for more than 30 years at Heathcote as a Governor, and later Chair of Governors. The Governing Body are looking at ways to celebrate his huge contribution to the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (ehillman@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk) or other relevant staff if you have any queries. School will be mostly closed over the summer but feel free to email me directly and I will get back to you as soon as I am able. In addition, we will be running a short session for parents on 19th July at 5.30 pm where I will present some of these changes and you will have an opportunity to ask any questions then. Please contact the school office (heathcote.school@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk) if you wish to attend this session.

The website will be updated with new information over the summer holidays so please make sure you regularly check this during the year as there will be a lot of information about the curriculum and subject details. New Year 7 parents and carers will be given further details about the school communication systems in September and all other families that have not signed up to Parent Mail and SIMs app will need to do so.

Best wishes



Emma Hillman
Headteacher