



Heathcote School & Science College

Normanton Park, Chingford, London E4 6ES. Tel: 020 8498 5110 Fax: 020 8529 3935

E-Mail: heathcote.school@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk Web: www.heathcoteschool.com

Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA

17th December 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,



Re: End of Autumn Term

Thank you for all your support in making this a very successful term and for supporting us with all the changes. Thank you for your responses to the parent survey as well – I will be reading all your feedback over the holidays so, if you haven't yet completed this, please follow the link

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LR9BJZM> The newsletter will be sent out separately with details of many of the term's highlights.



Final End of Term Arrangements

On the final day of term, Friday 21st December, we will be finishing at the end of the morning and there will be a non-uniform, 'Christmas themed' day to raise money for SMA Support UK (Spinal Muscular Atrophy). We actively encourage Christmas jumpers! To participate in the non-uniform event we are requesting a donation of £1 which will be collected on Wednesday and Thursday 19 and 20th December. Please ensure all non-uniform choices are appropriate and non-offensive. Pupils are not allowed to wear crop tops, vest tops or very short skirts, etc. Any pupil wearing unacceptable attire will be requested to leave the school and return in full school uniform. In addition, normal school rules apply; for example, hats must be taken off in the school building and banned items are still banned items.



The school day will be proceeding as usual but with the addition of celebratory year group assemblies being held throughout the morning. Pupils will be expected to attend on time arriving on site at 08.40am. All pupils will be expected to attend normal lessons unless otherwise instructed to attend the assembly hall.



Pupils will be dismissed during period 4 (11.50am to 12.40pm) in a staggered fashion. Food will be available from 10.40am – 11.15am (break extended by 15 minutes) but there will be no lunch service. Pupils with free school meals should get their food at this time.



Please remind your child of the expectations that they are to behave appropriately at the end of term and consider the local community whilst they enjoy an earlier finish to the school day than usual. Staff will be amongst the local community to monitor pupil behaviour on dismissal. Pupils will be expected to make their way home quickly and calmly. Sixth form pupils will be having their first 3 lessons of the day before leaving at 11.50am.



The school office will be closed from 1pm on Friday 21st and will reopen at 8am on Monday 7th January. Urgent issues should be directed to me via e mail over the holidays.

The new term

Term will start on Monday 7th January and lessons will start at 11.00am for period 3, allowing time for staff training. The gates will open at 10.40am and break-time food will be available for those that arrive on time in the main canteen.

Pupils must return in full school uniform and, any pupils that does not return dressed appropriately will be sent home with a letter and will need to return promptly in full school uniform. Please use the holidays to ensure old or lost items are replaced.

I would like to remind you about nails and piercings – no false nails are allowed in school as well as no nail varnish. Pupils are allowed one set of piercings in the ear lobe only and must wear small gold or silver studs (not diamante earrings). An increasing number of pupils are returning after holidays or weekends with new acrylic nails or piercings and there is no place for these in school and ignoring this is a health and safety issue. We must have your support with this and these rules apply in all secondary schools in the borough. Ignoring these rules also leads to unnecessary staff/pupil conflict and will lead to pupils being removed from lessons whilst the issues are resolved.

We have sadly had a spate of poor behaviour in the local community recently and I would urge you to speak to your children about where they go and what they do after school. Although we patrol the bus stops and local areas, we cannot be everywhere and anti-social behaviour in the local community damages our reputation and is not representative of the great pupil body we have. In the New Year, we are going to contact all local businesses and reassure them we are working in partnership to support them when pupils behave badly in school uniform. This may mean pupils being banned from certain shops and businesses. Whilst this is not something I want to put in place, I am receiving phone calls most weeks from local people about the behaviour of some of our pupils.

The Governors have agreed that, as per Ofsted's guidance, we will need to reflect on new policies and make amendments during the year based on feedback and data. There will therefore be some changes to the Behaviour Policy which will be shared in the first day in assemblies and will be sent out to you in the New Year. We are always reflective and will ensure we keep tweaking things until it is right for our community. All our policies are on the website and over the year, many of these will be reviewed and updated – we will alert out when this is the case.

Pupil reports for every year will be sent out week beginning the 14th January via the SIMs App.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy holiday and a relaxing Christmas break. Year 11 and 13 pupils should ensure they regain their energy after exams ready for the countdown to GCSEs, BTECs and A Levels.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office, who will help or direct you to the right person or e-mail me on ehillman@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Emma Hillman', written in a light grey or blue ink.

Emma Hillman
Headteacher