



# Heathcote School & Science College

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Dear Parent/Carer,



gardiner.theobald

Many thanks for your continuing support of the school and the current situation. I wanted to update you on a number of things:

## The Recovery Curriculum



I have walked round the school in all areas a number of times this week and am hugely impressed by the way pupils are engaging with learning and adapting to the recovery timetable. This stands us in good stead for the future and I hope this continues. Year 7 have made a great start and it is great to see them not only adapting to the new normal but, also the challenges of a new school.



## Behaviour in the Community



It is great to see so many pupils walking to school and this will have long term impact on their health and well-being. Please can you speak to your child about making sure that they respect other pedestrians in the community. This includes not walking in large groups, which should not be happening anyway, only walking with members of their year group in ones or twos and continuing to try and keep 1m apart, allowing other pavement users room and generally being polite and well-mannered. Most pupils are doing this and this has been commented on but some pupils, especially those in Year 11, have been reported as not being as considerate.



supporting individual excellence



In addition, whilst I am delighted to hear of pupils using local businesses, they must, of course, respect the social distancing rules of the shop or business. If pupils cannot do this, or display any poor behaviour to and from school, they will need to be brought to and from school by a parent or carer. All pupils and parents have signed a Covid Safety contract and our behaviour expectations are made clear within this.



Pupils need to continue to arrive 5 minutes before their arrival time and not too early or late – I know this is difficult with the transport situation but this ensures pupils can stay in their bubbles and we can keep them safe. The pavements are not big enough to accommodate pupils waiting and I am aware of the noise levels for local residents with pupils waiting. We do move pupils in to the school earlier when we can (and normally I would be very grateful for early pupils!) and they wait in holding areas but the more pupils that arrive promptly, the easier this is to manage. Most pupils are doing this brilliantly given the circumstances.



## Review of Recovery Curriculum and Risk Assessment

We have committed to reviewing the processes every 3 weeks and will be meeting the week after next to review the current situation with a member of the Governing Body.

We are asking pupils for their feedback in their tutorial sessions and this will help us in reflecting on the systems so far. Things are working very well in many areas and I am really pleased that all the planning over the summer holidays has paid off. I know that many of you will have your own thoughts and ideas (I think the pandemic has brought out a number of very strong opinions in people!) and I would love to have the time to hear all of them. I am confident that we are a strong and reflective Leadership Team and will consider all the positive things and areas we need to look at and so will not be asking for a free-for-all of comments and feedback from you at this stage. We do have set times for parent/carer surveys in the calendar. However, I do want you to be able to contribute if you have any significant feedback both positive or negative. You can email this to me at [ehillman@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:ehillman@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk) before Tuesday but do please be mindful of my comments above.

### **Remote/Online Learning**

Prior to Covid, we had a strategy to increase the use of technology to support independent learning but we have brought this forward now due to the current and likely future situation. This is a positive thing for the school as we can support pupils with narrowing gaps and also future proof against any further absence from school due to Covid. In addition, this accessibility to learning outside of the classroom will support all pupils regardless of Covid. A letter will follow later from Mr Abbot, Quality of Education Team, with all the details of this and how it will work and it is very important that you read this letter. It also contains details of updates we have introduced in other areas of learning and Challenge Week.

### **Covid**

Thank you to all of you for following our guidance for suspected Covid cases. We have not yet had a positive case and are very grateful for this. I know it is very challenging to get tested and we will continue to give you any updated guidance we have and whether we can support with this in the future. We are hoping to increase our very small stock of tests in school.

### **Pupil Tutorial**

Pupils in Year 7-11 will have a tutorial session in the next week which will cover many things including similar content to this letter including an introduction to Google Classroom. They will also have the chance to feedback on how term has started. In addition, they will be ordering lunch for the 3 weeks from 5<sup>th</sup> October to half term. You will be charged for this if they select this option for the full second set of 3 weeks. We have varied the menu to provide a change.

### **Pupil Leadership**

You will shortly receive a letter from Ms Elmi updating you on the current circumstances.

## **Open Evening**

Sadly we cannot have our normal Open Evening this year and will be running a series of individual tours and on-line events to advertise our amazing school. Some pupils will be involved in panels and tours and thank you to all those pupils in advance. We are also making a film with a local filmmaker showing off all we have to offer which I cannot wait to share with you. We recognise that the school is becoming much more popular and we are so disappointed that we can't do things in the normal way this year. I am looking for a parent to speak with me for a short time at the virtual Headteacher presentation on 1st October and please if email me if you would like to do this and help sell our school and what we have to offer.

## **Mental Health**

I attach details of an on-line well-being and resilience workshop that you may want to take part in

## **Bulletin**

Although this has been derailed by Covid, we aim to have a regular parent/carers bulletin which will help provide information on a more regular basis rather than sending long letters, although at the moment there is a lot of information to pass on.

I do hope that you have a good weekend and you all remain well and safe.

All the best

Emma Hillman