



# Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Emma Hillman NPQH, MSc, MA



October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope you have settled into the break and your children are having a rest. They have worked hard and got used to the routines very quickly and the school has achieved a significant amount this half-term as you can read about in the weekly newsletters. I wanted to update you on a few things.



## Covid 19

At present, we have more pupils and staff unwell from Covid than we have for some time, and we wish them all the best. Please ensure you make an informed choice about the vaccines for 12-15 year olds in November and please make sure you continue to follow all the advice on how to avoid catching and spreading Covid. Please also continue to undertake LFTs twice a week. We will keep you updated if we have to reintroduce tougher measures and will watch the local and national figures carefully.



## Free School Meals

The Local Authority has agreed to fund vouchers for families of children entitled to free school meals for the half-term period. As previously, these will be provided by Edenred on behalf of Waltham Forest. Those of you who have children new to the school this year may not have used the Edenred vouchers so I have attached a Parent Guide on how they work. You will shortly be sent a code from [noreply@edenred.com](mailto:noreply@edenred.com) that can be exchanged for vouchers worth £15 per child which is to cover the holiday period. Please contact Mr Tilbury on [ntilbury@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:ntilbury@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk) if you have any queries.



## School Lunches

After half-term, we will be removing the overdraft facility from pupil accounts. We have always allowed a small overdraft in order to try and be as flexible as possible. Unfortunately, when we try and reclaim these costs, we have little success. Please ensure your child always has a packed lunch or enough money on their account to purchase what they need to.



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We will always support pupils and families who need it and would ask you to please contact [eaustin@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:eaustin@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk) if you need support from our Hardship Fund. If a child, not entitled to free school meals genuinely has nothing to eat and no money, we will, of course, feed them as a one-off and follow up with a call to see if there are any issues we can support with.



Please do see the new menus for the next half-term in the Parent Newsletter.



## Sugary/Junk food and Fizzy/High Energy Drinks and Juice Cartons; Nuts

Please do remember that that the above foods and drinks are banned in school and will be confiscated if seen. Please do also remember that nuts are **NOT ALLOWED** anywhere in school. We have a number of children with severe allergies and hence the



need to be a nut-free school. Whilst we have not had any incidents, we wish to regularly remind all stakeholders.

### **Free Breakfast**

Please do remember that we run a free breakfast from 8-8.30 am every morning – arrival must be before 8.15 am and you must sign up, and make a commitment, using this link to ensure we order enough food -

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmCpGC8M4TDPi9TQyzNOKtSFifZNDPINf-mmmpXe4JDnqtrQ/viewform>

### **Arrival at School**

As you know, and like most schools, we still maintain a staggered start and separate entrances to school to ensure there is no unnecessary mixing of year groups at the start of the day. Please support your child with arriving at the right time. Whilst we are always supportive of being punctual, some pupils are choosing to arrive well in advance of school and hang around in the local neighbourhood disturbing residents. If your child needs to leave home early, please make sure that they sign up for breakfast club or, please look at bus times or alternate routes to ensure they arrive as near to their line-up time as possible.

### **Departure from School**

A reminder that pupils should go straight home after school or enrichment by the most direct route. Although much improved, there is still a group of pupils who hang around far later than necessary in Station Road and the Mount. As it is getting darker, and don't forget the clocks go back next weekend, pupils should be going home or to another place of safety and not be out on the streets. We will, as per our Policy, insist on parents and carers having to drop and pick pupils up that cause any issues after school for a period of time.

### **Parent/Carer Evenings**

The following changes have been made to Parent/Carer Evenings for the year ahead – they all take place on a Thursday and will run remotely until further notice. Reports including Challenge Week data will be issued in November:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>2/12/2021</b>	Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening
<b>9/12/2021</b>	Year 7 Parent/Carer Evening
<b>13/1/2022</b>	Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening
<b>27/1/2022</b>	Year 13 Parent/Carer Evening
<b>24/2/2022</b>	Year 9 Preferences Evening
<b>24/3/2022</b>	Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening
<b>21/4/2022</b>	Year 9 Parent/Carer Evening

### **Plan B – Summer Exams – A Level and GCSE**

Whilst we have no reason to believe that exams will not take place in 2022, we have been advised to identify pieces of work or assessment that would be used if exams were to be cancelled again. After half-term, we will develop a strategy to ensure that pupils in Year 11 and 13 are informed before completing all pieces of work that would be used to identify grades if this were to be the case. The mock exams should also be treated in that way as they are likely to be part of the evidence in all cases. Pupils will be given further information in class.

## **Trips and Events**

This year will see the school organising trips and activities to support learning in school, with an additional focus on disadvantaged pupils. Whilst we look to support and target these pupils, we rely on our Hardship Fund often to do this. This is topped up by the School Fund. Please do see the next section as to how you can donate.

For all pupils, we will not use first come, first served approaches as this does not suit the jobs and lifestyles of all our parents or carers. For open places for trips and events that are over-subscribed, we will try wherever possible to operate fair systems after sign up; including not making immediate payment a condition of sign-up and tracking the number of trips pupils have attended etc.

## **School Fund**

Whilst we would not wish to be in a world where we have to ask families for a contribution, these are testing times and we want to ensure that all our pupils have the best experiences possible whilst at Heathcote. The money does not pay for teachers or resources but is used to broaden and enrich the educational experience for all our pupils, for example running costs of the mini-bus and subsidising school trips. We will also use the funds to provide support for disadvantaged pupils and families facing financial challenges.

**We are asking every family to contribute a minimum of £10 per family per term** – set up in the payments section of ParentMail. Your family may choose to contribute less or more, of course, depending on your circumstances but it would be great if we could build these funds up especially to support the school in the year after the pandemic.

## **INSET Day**

**A reminder that the school will be holding an INSET Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November** and so most pupils will stay at home. We do however have an exciting opportunity going on at school as we will be hosting an Eco Classroom Workshop event in memory of John Enyon who supported former Heathcote pupils with careers guidance and industry insight into the built environment, and who sadly passed away recently.

The workshop will be held in the school's Sixth Form building where up to 100 professionals from the built environment and construction industry will be attending to complete the workshop themselves with our pupils acting as the hosts and judges on the day. We are looking for 12 pupils in Years 7-9 who would like to support with this and come into school on this day. It would be a great careers experience as well for pupils interested in the built environment. If your child is interested in supporting this event then please email Mr Dolan [adolan@heathcote.wlatham.sch.uk](mailto:adolan@heathcote.wlatham.sch.uk).

## **Parent Council and Survey**

We will send out a Parent Survey before Christmas to get some feedback on areas of school life and hope to set up a Parent Council, led by Mr Hutchins, before Christmas to enable more of you to become involved in our school.

I do hope you enjoy the half-term break and you have some well-deserved family time. Thank you, as always for your continued support.

All the best

Emma Hillman

Headteacher