



Heathcote School & Science College

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Headteacher: Sonia Close NPQH, B.ed, MA



Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers



We have had another brilliant week in school, with all the new Year 7 pupils settling in well - we are so proud of them. On my lesson walks this week I have been very impressed with how focused and engaged pupils are in their lessons. There is a really positive energy around the school.



We are also proud to report that we have had 104 pupils join us in Year 12 and 180 join our Year 7 meaning we are fully subscribed. This is great news and we hope for this to continue, therefore we would appreciate our parents spreading the word about our Year 6 Open Evening on the 5th October 2022 from 5:00 – 8:00pm. Prospective parents can book their tickets for our Open Evening at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/420422794897>



We are currently putting together the Pupil Enrichment Programme and I will send this out to you in next week's bulletin. We do not charge for our enrichment programme, your child will just need to sign up with the relevant departments.



Last week, I sent you the parent handbook and some key dates documents to pin up at home. Please do take a look at these and put the dates in your diary. Also in the parent handbook, I have included instructions on how to download the Arbor app. The Arbor app has now replaced the Sims app, which can now be deleted. Arbor will now be the place where you can see your child's attendance, praise and behaviour information. School reports will also be available on here after Challenge Weeks. Over time, we are hoping to move to all communications via Arbor and not ParentMail - we will keep you updated on this.



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Unfortunately, we have had a small number of pupils unwell with vomiting and or diarrhoea this week. I have contacted public health to ensure the safety of all of our pupils and they have advised that all pupils who are unwell must remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode. We have deep-cleaned the key areas and have temporarily removed the self-serve salad bar in the canteen. Please remind your child to wash their hands before eating.



I would like to remind you that the lunch menu costs £2.56 per day. For this pupils can get a main meal or sandwich and a dessert. If pupils choose to buy the bottled water, they will be charged extra. I have agreed with the catering team that if pupils do not want dessert, then they can have the bottled water included in the main meal price. We do have water available to pupils free of charge, so there is no need for them to buy it.



Each week I will write to you with the key messages or information but I will be sending the Heathnotes newsletter fortnightly instead of weekly. The first version of Heathnotes will be with you next week.



Regrettably, we have had some silly behaviour on the Station Road this week, after 4:00pm when staff leave the duty points. Please can ensure that your child is not on Station Road after 4:00pm. If they do wish to go out, then they should go home and get changed out of their school uniform first. If pupils cannot conduct themselves properly, we will ask for parents to collect them from school.



On a more positive note, this week we held a meet the Senior Leadership Team parent event. Thank you to those who attended. I will place the presentation slides on the website for those who were not able to make it. At the parent event we launched the PTA and now have 6 volunteers to help raise funds for our pupils. If you are interested in being a part of Heathcote PTA, please contact: jvazquez@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk

Have a wonderful weekend and remember pupils are not back to school until **Tuesday 20th September**, at their usual start times and gates.

Kind Regards

Sonia Close

Sonia Close
Headteacher