



# The Henry Cort Community College

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Our ref: CDC/LCD

1 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Parent Survey 2021**

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete our annual survey last term. We received 213 responses and we thank you for your honest feedback. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have sung our praises and explain how we intend to address any concerns that have been raised.

We cannot underestimate the impact the pandemic and lockdowns have had on students and their families. To address the mental health and wellbeing of students we have put a clear programme of emotional and academic support in place for individual student needs. We are aware of some dissatisfaction with the length of time for support. Whilst we have referred students for external support we are aware that some organisations have closed their books and others have 18 month+ waiting lists. Because of this, we are training staff to deliver initial wellbeing programmes which will commence in September. We have also made significant changes to the wellbeing area which will hopefully provide more support than we were able to last year.

Please keep us informed if you feel your child needs extra support in adjusting back into, what will hopefully be, a more normal college life in September. Please contact your child's tutor: <https://www.henry-cort.hants.sch.uk/parents/communications/tutorcontactform>

For some students the structured college day has proved difficult to readjust to resulting in some disengagement. This has not been helped by government guidance insisting on staff remaining 2m from students and classroom layouts not allowing group or collaborative working. The updated guidelines remove these restrictions and will allow for a return to the teaching methods used pre-covid.

The college has a clear focus to address any outstanding issues in relation to behaviour and with the removal of classroom limitations, SEN students will hopefully also feel better supported in September. It is our aim, as with any school to build the independence of all SEN students so that they are not so reliant on adult help.

There were concerns raised in relation to the toilets being closed, students have plenty of opportunities to go to the toilet and, as always, should not be going during lesson time unless they have a medical need and a toilet pass. Unfortunately, we had a spate of vandalism which caused us to close toilets during lessons for a short time. We will, however, be addressing the issues raised by some parents about students conduct in the toilets.

Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions it was necessary to turn off the water fountains to stop the spread of Covid. Water is, and always has been, available in the canteen and staff were

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Mr T Mitchell BSc (Hons), MSc, Mr B Parker BA (Hons), Ms L Ferrier BA (Hons), Miss C Gudgeon BA (Hons) Mrs K Cook BA (Hons), ADSBM

## **ASPIRE**

**ACHIEVEMENT \* SUPPORT \* PERSEVERANCE \* INDIVIDUALITY \* RESPECT \* EXCELLENCE**

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filling bottles, we hope to have the fountains accessible from the start of term. Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle.

Some parents wanted more opportunities for children to engage in extracurricular activities. These were halted due to staggered start and finish times and requirements placed on us by the DfE. At present, most of the restrictions placed on the college will be lifted for the start of term. Staggered starts, bubbles and defined year group areas and buses are no longer required. After college activities will recommence and it is a clear focus of the college to broaden the range of extracurricular provision for everyone and we will re-establish the late bus service for entitled students. The bus services will revert to mixed year groups and serve dedicated areas as before the pandemic which will hopefully reduce travel times for students as well.

**The college makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.**

We update and publish our curriculum overviews on our website annually: <https://www.henry-cort.hants.sch.uk/curriculumoverviews>. In addition, all lessons are available to view on GoogleClassroom. Students can revisit work that they struggled with, or view in advance subjects that they might find more challenging. This resource is available to enable revision for topic tests and exams and also for students to deepen their knowledge in areas of weakness and is an excellent way for you to discuss with your child what they are learning.

Unfortunately, the curriculum information to parents was delivered in a different way last year, as we have not been able to hold any in person information evenings or parent voice. We hope this year we will, again, be able to offer this; we will send a communication out in due course explaining our current curriculum model with links to the relevant information. If your child needs help with homework, the study support sessions in the library will recommence in September.

**The college lets me know how my child is doing.**

Some parents/carers reported that they found the student progress reviews difficult to understand. Again there has not been an opportunity to explain the assessment process in person. We hope to record a short video and link in the letter that accompanies the report.

In the meantime information about assessment can be found on our website: <https://www.henry-cort.hants.sch.uk/parents/curriculum/assessment>. If you have any concerns or would like to know how your child is doing in between each report cycle, do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor who will be happy to help.

Every lesson is available on Google Classroom so students can review areas or lessons at any time.

We value your feedback and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms C Cabbage  
Principal