



The Henry Cort Community College

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28 March 2024

Dear All

This is the last time I will be writing to you as Principal of Henry Cort and I want to thank all the staff, students and parents who have sent messages and gifts. They are greatly appreciated. It has been an absolute privilege to serve you as the Principal and see the college grow. I realise that the timing of my departure mid-year is less than ideal but I want to assure you that I have been working with County and Governors to ensure the college is in good hands whilst a permanent Principal is recruited.

The college has made significant gains since its Ofsted last June, the GCSE results outperformed local schools and predictions for this cohort are higher still. Hampshire Leadership Learning Partner (LLP) visits have confirmed that; the actions by myself and the senior team are correct, that staff have been provided with the training they need to make improvements and that middle leaders are now driving these on a daily basis. The LLP confirmed there is improvement in the work being produced by students and that marking is more consistent and starting to make more impact. The LLP observed commonality in strategies and what was seen in class was reflected in the books, she saw no low level disruption and students were much more engaged. There were elements of exemplary practice observed that we will now share. The college's attendance figures are positive and are currently above national. So I leave with the college having made strides towards the Ofsted targets.

The college has had some major sporting successes this term, with teams winning Hampshire titles in cross country and football and several students representing their country in a variety of sports. The college production, 'We Will Rock You', was a major highlight. It made me so proud to see such an array of students on stage and behind the scenes working together to make the event a success. We are currently undergoing a full external redecoration, bringing new life into the old buildings and will improve the look and feel of the college.

When we return, Year 11s will start their final examinations with Art and Textiles taking place from the first day. There is a programme of revision classes over the Easter break which students have signed up for and they have been informed of which sessions they are in and when these are taking place. I want to thank the staff for giving up their holiday time to facilitate these.

Today launches the proposals for the Whiteley school and it is important that you engage with this to secure the future of Henry Cort. Having read and considered all the options, I would strongly recommend that you support the College relocation as the other options do not pose a positive future for the college.

We have a number of staff leaving this term, Mrs Richards is leaving and we thank her for supporting the English team whilst Mrs Howes was on maternity leave. Mr Edgecombe will also be leaving and Mr Snell will be joining us on 1 May to replace him. I would like to thank Mrs Hargreaves Brown who has been with us on an interim post for all her work in Humanities filling a gap until the new Head of Faculty could start. She will be with us next term providing some day to day cover. Mrs Kent also leaves us and I thank her for all her work to support teaching and learning, and helping the college address the Ofsted actions. The following staff will be joining us after Easter, Mr Currie, Head of Humanities, Miss Eveleigh who is taking up a new position as the College Literacy Co-ordinator, Mrs Colbourne as Senior First Aider allowing Mrs Giles to assume a new position as full time Attendance Officer. Mrs Philbrick will be joining the Creative and Technical Arts team as the food teacher and Mrs Emmonds will be joining the Behaviour Support Team. Mrs Morrey, English Teacher, will also be returning on 3 June 2024.

PRINCIPAL: Ms C Cabbage BSc (Hons), Dip Ed, MBA, CMgr FCMl

SENIOR LEADERSHIP: Mrs K Kent BA (Hons) * Mr N Carroll BSc (Hons) * Mr R Walker BSc (Hons) * Dr J Evans BSc (Hons) * Ms C Gudgeon BA (Hons) * Mrs J Coffin, ADSBM

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I have today also managed to resolve the staffing issue in Science with Ms Sainsbury and Mr Adeyemo agreeing to return and share the role for the remainder of the academic year. Mr Rake will be joining the college in September. I, therefore, leave the college staffed apart from a cover supervisor position that we are actively recruiting for.

Thank you for all your support and I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ms Cabbage', written in a cursive style.

Ms Cabbage
Principal