

Dear Parents and Carers

I know that many of you will have seen the news about the release of Section 106 funds which have to be used on increasing overall provision and improving facilities in school. I have written to you about this in the past and it is something we have been negotiating since I came into post (and the months before I officially started). These monies are committed to public institutions, often schools, as part of the process of planning applications and are then held by the local authority. We discovered the size of the pot available to us and identified some significant needs at the Windmill Lane site as a first priority. The first phase of this will be the remodelling of the student toilets, which is currently progressing apace. The second phase will be the replacement of several very tired modular buildings that are not fit for purpose, but this is in the very early stages of a feasibility study. We hope that there will be funds remaining for further improvements in a third stage, but this is not clear at this point - I will obviously update you on all of these projects in due course. With further developments in the East Grinstead area in the planning stage, we hope that we will also be able to access further funds in the coming months and years that will improve and future proof both sites for the whole school community.

We have seen an uptick in students wearing some non-uniform hoodies and shoes, and a small number bringing in fizzy drinks. This obviously causes them to find themselves in immediate conflict with staff and is something we would like to avoid. So that all students are ready to learn and meet our expectations, I wanted to just clarify the following things:

- Only the school hoodie or jumper may be worn in school. No other hoodies, jumpers or sweatshirts may come into school.
- Shoes must be leather or leather-look and all black with no other colour or detailing.
- Only water may be brought into school. The only drinks other than water that may be in school are those that are sold in the Canteen to meet our Healthy Schools obligations, and to ensure that students make healthy choices.

Please reinforce this message (or read the above verbatim) with your children. With all of us working together we can ensure that students at the school are ready to be successful with no immediate barriers.

A few weeks ago I wrote about the warmer weather and the need for hydration and suncream and with the weather looking up over the coming weeks, it feels important to highlight this again. We have also seen a higher pollen count and students suffering with this, especially with itchy eyes. Mrs Heron has therefore asked that any students who require hayfever medication do so before school or alternatively complete a Medicine in School Form, bringing the medicine into school for them to take. I am afraid that we only stock enough antihistamine in school for emergencies and would be unable to administer without the aforementioned form either way.

West Sussex County Council are currently reviewing their Children and Young People's plan prior to the introduction of a new three-year plan from 2026-29. They have asked that we share this survey [link](#) to gather the views of parents, carers and students. Please complete it if you have a chance - it is open until 21st July 2025.

We have been made aware of a road closure on Hophurst Hill, Crawley Down from Monday 23rd June for 5 days between 0800-1800 each day. This is going to have an impact on Metrobus services 624, 643, and 281 that serve Hophurst Hill, Cuttinglye Road, Rowplatt Lane and Felbridge school stops.

The services will serve the main Crawley Down Village stops in the morning and then turn left from Tiltwood Drive, return to Turners Hill Road and travel to the Dukes Head to join the A264 to school. Services will operate a reverse of this route in the afternoon.

Students who live along Hophurst Hill will need to make their way to the stop on Tiltwood Drive in the morning and will need to make arrangements to get home from this stop in the afternoon.

If you have any concerns, please contact your son/daughters Pastoral Team.

Finally, two notices from our wider community. EG Meads Under-13 (Year 7) girls' team is seeking to recruit new players! You will have seen a post about this on our social media this week. We would urge all of our students to get involved in local clubs and activities because we know the value of exercise, social interaction, individual commitment and teamwork, and the hugely positive impact that this has on the mental health and wellbeing of our students. The Bookshop on the High Street is running an Inaugural Bookshop Schools Chess Tournament and are keen to have participation from the children and young people of East Grinstead. The tournament is on Sunday 29th June - further details can be found here:

<https://www.eastgrinsteadbookshop.co.uk/event-details/the-inaugural-bookshop-schools-chess-tournament-2025>.

Should parents/carers or students be involved in any other groups or activities or have news of your children's success outside of school, and would be keen for a mention on our social media or in these letters, please do let us know and we will endeavour to do so.

Yours faithfully

Mr Matthew Whatford
Headteacher