



Recruitment Information Pack

2026/2027

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Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in Heathfield Community College and I am delighted that you are considering joining our team at this exciting stage in our journey.

As the Headteacher I am privileged to lead such a fantastic school. Heathfield Community College is a consistently high performing secondary school with an excellent Sixth Form. It is an inspirational community where young people excel. Our success is based on partnership and a clear focus on excellence for all students.

This is a school going from strength to strength. There is a sustained sense of positive momentum at Heathfield. Repeated Ofsted Inspections have noticed: *“there is a tangible sense of pride, ambition and community within the college.”* which are *“lived out in daily life”* (May 2023). Our most recent inspection in May 2023 which confirmed we were an outstanding provider in the majority of judgements stating *“pupils receive a great education... and...flourish here”* with praise for our ambitious curriculum, teaching and high level of achievement. In 2024 Ofsted confirmed our outcomes were indeed *“outstanding”*.

Achievement has continued to improve and 2026 has again shown exceptional success for our students at both Key stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Students here are expected to apply themselves fully to their studies and reap the rewards of hard work as a result.

Heathfield students and staff have a strong sense of belonging and community. A warm and collaborative ethos means students are well known to teachers and are supported by their peers; students develop a firm identity with college values and a sense of responsibility for one another.

Heathfield is a positive, innovative and collaborative professional environment where you can trust that you will be inspired, challenged and supported as you take the next steps in your career. Therefore, I am totally focused on ensuring that we handpick the very best staff to join our team and help us fulfil our goals.

If I can help or advise you as you consider your application, please do not hesitate to contact me at cbarlow@heathfieldcc.co.uk.

CAROLINE BARLOW

Headteacher

Our College

About the School

Heathfield Community College serves the local community from a pleasant 26 acre site on the edge of Heathfield. Our size offers us many advantages: we have excellent facilities, allowing us to offer a wide and varied range of academic and vocational courses at all levels. The Heathfield campus has been steadily improved in recent years. We have both a Library and a dedicated Sixth Form Learning Resource Centre, we also enjoy large open space and a floodlit all-weather astro-turf pitch.

A rolling programme of refurbishment means we continue to upgrade and improve our site and facilities including Science rooms, Music Technology and ICT facilities, including our very own Apple-esque Genius Bar. There is also a fitness centre (adjoining the school site and run by Freedom Leisure), and multi-use games areas.

Our commitment to an innovative digital curriculum ensures a well-resourced college across all areas. 18 individual rooms offer a breadth of ICT provision ranging from Microsoft PCs for all subjects, Apple Macs for Media, Graphics and Music Technology. The iPads ensure that creative and innovative approaches to teaching and learning transform experiences across the college. A high-speed wireless across the site ensures reliable functionality. Full remote access for staff and students ensures high quality access to resources and dialogue about learning. We seek to constantly review and adapt our practice to ensure the most efficient and effective ways of working and promoting learning. Teaching staff are supported with an iPad for their role.

Autistic Spectrum Facility

Heathfield Community College has a designated Specialist Facility for students on the Autistic Spectrum, including those with Aspergers Syndrome. There are twelve places within the Specialist Provision, although there are many more students with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the college. The College has previously achieved Autism Accreditation from the National Autistic Society.

Students with ASD have significant, core difficulties in the areas of:-

- Social interaction; social relationships.
- Social use of language; communication skills.
- Social understanding; imagination and theory of mind.

These are known as the Triad of Impairment.

As with all students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities, at Heathfield Community College, we believe that the first important step towards Inclusion happens in subject classrooms through quality first teaching.

Our Learning Support Department is committed to supporting students, staff and parents to ensure that all students make progress and achieve their potential. Training is offered on a formal and informal basis and all new staff are expected to attend at least the three part ASD training, or the ASD Online Training during their first year.

Heathfield Community College offers all students:

- A well-planned, broad and balanced curriculum.
- A consistent record of excellent examination results.
- Well qualified specialist staff combining innovative and traditional methods in the classroom.
- A secure, supportive, encouraging and happy environment.
- A wide range of extra-curricular and residential activities.
- Access to a digital curriculum with iPads for all KS3 students through a lease scheme.

Our Vision and Ethos

Heathfield Community College is committed to fulfilling the potential of each of its learners. The College achieves outstanding results for students of all abilities and aspires to meet the needs of all who live within the Heathfield community. We are a fully inclusive College with outstanding provision for the whole range of students from our most vulnerable to our most gifted.

From the moment that students join the College they are embraced into an ethos, which is widely recognised as aspirational with a strong community spirit *“Pupils enjoy coming to school and they are proud of it.”. They “are well mannered and polite. Staff set a high bar in terms of pupils’ conduct. Pupils feel happy and safe in this vibrant and nurturing school...make a real difference to continually improving life at their school.” (Ofsted)*

Students play an active role in the College, develop leadership skills and support each other extensively including Sixth Form support for Year 7 reading and Year 10 Buddies to support the transition from Primary school.

Our Prefects, College Council and other representative bodies play a significant role in shaping the future of the College. A real and developing strength of the school is the broad range of leadership opportunities for students.

The school has a palpable *“culture for learning where students engage happily in their work and succeed well”*

The journey from Year 7 through to the Sixth Form is a rich experience. There is an extensive range of clubs, opportunities to perform in concerts and productions, sporting success, and engagement with the community locally as well as more widely across East Sussex or even nationally.

Students from Heathfield Community College leave the College as well-rounded young adults ready to be responsible citizens of the future with strong values, strong principles and ambition for success. This is achieved by a clear focus on the skills and attributes that we know are essential for future success in life.

The exceptional exam results achieved by our students will open doors but the key to sustained future success and happiness is the ability to demonstrate the qualities that rarely appear on an exam paper.

We call them our **Heathfield Habits** and we promote, recognise and reward them every day.

Heathfield Habits:

Confidence
Engagement
Compassion
Determination
Integrity



Vision and Values

Heathfield Community College is a positive and inclusive environment ensuring exceptional educational experiences with ambition and breadth for all. Heathfield students develop the knowledge, skills and characteristics to become the best version of themselves; they succeed and thrive at the highest levels.

Pride

- Celebrating success, our own and that of others.
- Developing self-belief and confidence.
- Valuing integrity and honesty.
- Growing self-esteem through a broad range of rich experiences.

Ambition

- Developing a mindset of hard work, determination, engagement and attention to detail.
- Innovative, challenging and personalized curriculum.
- High quality teaching and learning.
- Exceptional outcomes and destinations for all.

Community

- Mutual respect underpins positive relationships, our words and actions have impact.
- Good manners, courtesy and compassion.
- Valuing diversity, challenging discrimination and proactive inclusion.
- Working in partnership, we are all accountable for the responsibilities we each hold.

Pride . Ambition . Community

Staff Wellbeing

All staff and students at Heathfield work hard. As a result, we achieve impressive outcomes and enjoy a clear sense of purpose and belonging.

As part of ensuring we are all able to continue to give our best we prioritise the well-being of colleagues through continual review of our structures, practices and policies, ensuring that we remain focused on the things that will make a difference. Through discussion and regular feedback, we seek to reduce and remove the aspects of college life that impede or prevent effective working.

Equally a commitment to varied and personalised staff development ensures that colleagues are coached, challenged and supported to stay interested and keep refining their professional skills throughout their time at Heathfield.

In addition, the following offer routes for staff feedback, support and wellbeing:

- Staff Voice, active staff governors and healthy positive links with unions to ensure all voices are heard.
- Supportive governors with clear links to and positive engagement with all areas of the college.
- A thriving Staffroom Association that plans social and charitable activities.
- Commitment to healthy practices such as #teacher5aday.
- Access to staff counselling free and confidential services and other East Sussex support and entitlement packages.

Learning Support Assistant

Scale	Local Single Status Grade 3, point 7
Salary	£25,614 per annum Actual salary equates to £17,644
Hours	29.5 hours per week (term time only including INSET days)
Commencement	As soon as possible
Commitment	Permanent

Application Process

You are invited to read the following:

- Information and details about the College and department in this pack and via jobs@heathfieldcc.co.uk

If you are keen to join us then please complete and return the following:

- East Sussex County Council application form which should be returned (CVs will not be considered), including the names of two referees and the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form, by post or email to Ms Caroline Barlow, Headteacher - jobs@heathfieldcc.co.uk

The deadline for submitting an application is midday on Friday 23 October 2026 at the latest. Please submit your application as soon as possible as we reserve the right to interview prior to the closing date should we have a suitable candidate. Any applications received after the closing date may not be considered. If you are shortlisted you will be contacted by letter or telephone inviting you for an interview. It is not our policy to acknowledge applications or to contact candidates if they have not been shortlisted. No discourtesy is meant by this.

Shortlisting & Online Checks

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by letter or telephone inviting them to attend an interview.

Only shortlisted applicants are required to complete and return the attached Shortlisting Declaration Form. This should be emailed to Ellie Potter, Senior Finance & HR Assistant at epotter@heathfieldcc.co.uk prior to interview.

As part of our recruitment checks please be advised the College reserves the right to conduct online searches on shortlisted candidates prior to interview.

Interview Procedure

If a candidate is selected for interview the procedure will test how the candidate fulfils the requirements of the post. The selection process will include consideration of the candidate's suitability to work with children and young people. We also aim to give candidates suitable opportunity to determine for themselves the extent to which Heathfield is the right location for the next step in their career. The procedure is therefore likely to include:

1. Opportunity to learn about the College and Learning Support Department;
2. Written task focusing on differentiation;
3. Opportunities to learn more about the Special Educational Needs catered for in mainstream;
4. Interview, to include questions from students.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful applicants will need to undertake, or currently hold, a DBS enhanced clearance for this authority. We are also required by law to ensure that any prospective employee is legally entitled to live and work in the UK. You will be required to provide documentation as evidence. Other conditions of employment may apply. We are committed to equality of opportunity and positively welcome applications from all sections of the community. For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Elaine Burgess, SENDCO on 01435 8660666 or via email eburgess@heathfieldcc.co.uk.

Support Staff

We can offer you an opportunity to join a highly welcoming, friendly and dedicated support staff team. The support staff at Heathfield Community College are an integral cog in the workings of the College. Roles vary across the site including administration, classroom support, department specific technicians, pastoral support, site staff and cleaners. Every role is important and Heathfield Community College believes the work the support staff carry out is extremely valuable.

The pastoral staff of the College are highly valued by students, staff and parent alike. By working together and doing the best we can do, the team help to make sure that our students are safe, happy and ready to achieve.

Offices are located across the site and each team have their specific tasks and responsibilities. Training and development opportunities are available for support staff. This can be made up of in-house training and external training courses.

Heathfield Community College is a supportive environment with caring, positive colleagues.

A member of the support staff quoted that Heathfield Community College *“has a real sense of Community spirit!”*

Another said *“I feel very supported by the members of SLT and the immediate colleagues who I work with. I like that SLT are often visible around the school and not tucked away in offices. I am very happy here.”*

Learning Support

The Learning Support Department caters for students with identified special educational needs and supports their access to the mainstream curriculum. It comprises a team of staff led by the SENDCO and made up of specialist teachers, specialist teaching assistants and learning support assistants. The department works closely with all other areas of the school and with the pastoral and senior teams.



Job Description

JOB TITLE	Teaching Assistant
GRADE	Single Status Grade 3
RESPONSIBLE TO	SENDCO

The Learning Support Assistant (LSA) will work with pupils on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) register to ensure that they can access the curriculum and have equality of opportunity with their peers. In order to achieve this, the LSA will do some or all of the following:

- Work within given classrooms where there are SEND pupils.
- Work closely with the subject teachers so that their role within the classroom is clear.
- Work with individual pupils as directed by the SENDCO or class teacher.
- Work with small groups of pupils as negotiated with subject teachers or the SENDCO.
- Act as Key Workers for individual pupils, meet with their key pupils on a regular basis, listen to any pupil concerns and feedback if need be to the SENDCO or the child's tutor.
- Help to prepare material or differentiate materials and tasks to meet the needs of the pupils.
- Contribute to a Pupil's Profile.
- Feedback on a regular basis to the SENDCO with regard to supported pupils.
- Provide support for SEND students during internal assessments and external examinations.
- Accompany school trips within working hours.
- Report immediately any areas of concern.
- Take account of and facilitate sensory and motor issues.
- Escort pupils with disabilities to the toilet.
- Provide written reports on pupils as required.
- Carry out any administration tasks required by the department.
- Provide staffing for the LS Department during break and lunch on a rota basis.
- Be directly responsible on a daily basis to the SENDCO.
- Be responsible on a contractual basis to the Business Manager.
- Adhere to school policies on Behaviour, Child Protection, Staff Conduct, Confidentiality, etc.
- Carry out any other duties as directed by the Head Teachers or the Line Managers.
- Cover for absent colleagues within the LS Department as required.
- Attend other training within school hours.
- Be committed to the notion of inclusion for SEND students.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. The post holder may be required from time to time to undertake other duties within the school as may be reasonable expected, without changing the general character of the duties or level of responsibility entailed. This is a common occurrence and would not justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful applicants will need to undertake, or currently hold, a DBS enhanced clearance for this authority.

Person Specification

The School will seek to identify these attributes through the recruitment and selection process of application, certification, interviews and professional references.

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Knowledge and Experience	Commitment to gaining knowledge and expertise regarding Special Needs, learning styles and in particular Autistic Spectrum Disorder.	Experience of working with SEND students in a secondary context
Skills and Abilities	Good interpersonal and communication skills. Ability to communicate effectively in writing. Willingness to work as part of a team and also on one's own initiative. Ability to work flexibly. Adaptability. Ability to communicate with students of all abilities and throughout the secondary age range.	Competent ICT user. Ability to work across various subject areas at all levels, including GCSE/GCE.
Education and Qualifications	NVQ Level 2 or equivalent (GCSE)	NVQ Level 3 or equivalent (A level standard)

Essential Safeguarding Practice

- Evidence of commitment to promoting the health, welfare and safeguarding of children.
- Evidence of promoting, implementing and monitoring equal opportunities across the full range of protected characteristics.
- An understanding of Child Protection procedures and a commitment to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.