

March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Spring Term Update to Parents/Carers – March 2018

As the spring term draws to a close, I am very pleased to provide you with an update on events and life at The Hamble School. As always, it has been a busy and action packed term, with exciting events taking place, such as World Book Day, the Music Concert and Rock Challenge. Although it is clearly hard to summarise the wealth of activity that goes on in the school, I have provided you with some key highlights which I hope you will find both interesting and informative.

Local Authority Monitoring Visit

As part of their annual cycle of school monitoring the Local Authority School Improvement Partner and a Deputy Head from a local secondary school carried out an in depth day's monitoring visit in March. The visit went exceptionally well and we were very proud to get such positive feedback on our continued progress since the Ofsted inspection in March 2017. The most pleasing aspect of the feedback is that even though leadership was judged as 'outstanding' in the Ofsted inspection, the Local Authority team felt the school had developed even further since then, describing it as 'outstanding plus'. This was a real boost to all the staff in middle and senior leadership roles and testament to everyone's will to continue developing all aspects of the schools offer.

Academic focus

This term has been a very important one for our Year 11 students, who have just completed their last set of mock exams before their final summer examinations. Their conduct throughout the exams was exemplary with the invigilators making a particular effort to inform me how impressed they have been with the students. This shows the seriousness with which the students are approaching their exams and this will most certainly be reflected in the grades they achieve. I have also been very pleased to see so many of our students taking part in extra learning such as literacy and numeracy intervention, buddy reading and master classes. We even have a group of students embarking on an extra GCSE in Statistics in their own time, ably taught by Mrs Finden. I am also delighted to inform you that two of our students made it through to the next round of the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This competition requires the highest level of mathematical ability and we wish Abigail Crotty and Aidan Hill the very best of luck in the next round.

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Competition Success

This term has also proved to be a very successful one in terms of our performance in a number of competitions. Our team of students, including Charlie Baxter, Luke Harrison, Obi Smith and Katherine Milne, took part in the School Library Service literature quiz on 7th March and won the regional round. This means they will now be representing the school in the regional final on 28th March. On the same day our team of engineers came 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the rotary engineering competition. This clean sweep of the prizes is testament to their skill and expertise and thanks should go to Mr Homewood, Head of Technology, for preparing the students so well.

Attendance

Thanks to your support, and the hard work of our Attendance Officer, Heads of Year and team of tutors, our attendance now stands firmly at 95% and the number of students who are persistently absent has dropped significantly. This is an excellent achievement and bodes extremely well for the academic achievement of our students.

Year 6 into Year 7 – September 2018

The school continues to grow in popularity and is now well established as the local school of choice. We will have 240 Year 7 students joining us in September. Unfortunately we have not been able to accommodate some Southampton residents but a waiting list has been established and places will be offered wherever possible should a vacancy arise.

Fund raising

As always Hamble students have taken action to help those less fortunate than themselves or to support good causes. One particular event I would like to draw your attention to is taking place over the Easter break. Tom Holland and Michael Preston (Year 11) are embarking on a 125-mile rowing challenge that will take them a total of four days. This is to raise money for the British Heart Foundation and Hamble Sea Scouts group. I am sure you will agree this is a significant challenge and we wish the boys the very best of luck. In order to support them I have agreed to have a mufti day on Thursday 29th March. If students wish to wear their own clothes they will be asked to bring £1 which will be donated to the fund raising event. This event is not compulsory and any student not wishing to take part in the charity event should wear their normal school uniform.

Extra – curricular activities

We have continued to grow the number of extra-curricular activities at the school this term with some new clubs forming, such as Cribbage and Chess which are proving very popular. As we move into the summer term there will be a host of exciting activities for your son/daughter to become involved in. Please encourage your child to take part in as many lunchtime and afterschool activities as possible. Details of these clubs and extra-curricular activities will be available on the website after Easter.

Events to look forward to

Following the Easter break there are a number of exciting events for the school to look forward to, including the Year 11 prom which this year will be held at Chilworth Manor, the annual trip to our partner school in South Africa and our Prize Giving at St Mary's stadium on 12th July. We also look forward to hosting two teachers and twelve students from our partner school in China for the week of 10th July.

Governor activities

Governance continues to go from strength to strength at Hamble with our new Chair of Governors, Mr Nigel Groves, leading a team of 10 dedicated and supportive Governors. This term they have carried out a day's monitoring visit to the school which focused on our progress towards our five key whole school objectives this year. As part of this process Governors looked at books, visited lessons and spoke with the staff and students in order to learn as much about the school as possible.

Alongside Hampshire County Council, Governors will also be recruiting a new Headteacher, with interviews scheduled for early May. They will, of course, update you as soon as an appointment has been made. You will be pleased to know that they are very clear about the quality of candidate that is needed to take the school through its next phase of development and will carry out a thorough and professional recruitment process.

It just leaves me to wish you and your family a very happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming your son(s) or daughter(s) back to school on Monday 16th April at 8.30 am.

With very best wishes,



Lisa Croke
Headteacher

If, at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.