



Dear Parents/ Carers

The Autumn term is the longest of the three in the school calendar so it is no surprise that it is the busiest. It has also been my first term as Headteacher at The Hamble School and I would like to thank everyone - staff, students, governors, parents and the wider community - for the support and goodwill that I have received this term. There is always a concern when a new Headteacher is appointed that he or she will look to make sweeping changes without learning what works and what doesn't. I've resisted the impulse to change too much and have spent the first term learning from everyone what life at The Hamble School is really like. A big thank you for your patience - I'm really looking forward to coming back in the New Year knowing who everyone is and where things are.

School events

The highlight of this term for me was definitely the three wonderful performances of Annie. I watched the final performance on Saturday and I was humbled by the strength of the performances by the students. I am indebted to Mrs Finden and Mrs Holden for organising and directing this performance - I have been singing the songs to myself during the past fortnight and insisted that the whole family watch the 1982 film version of this film afterwards. I know that staff and students gave up hours every week to rehearse, and the sound, costumes and sets were amazing. I had to keep reminding myself that I was sat in our school hall. I look forward to many more productions over the next few years.

We also had the opportunity to congratulate last year's Year 11s on their fantastic exam results. The 2018 GCSE results were the best the school has ever had and the +0.17 Progress 8 figure (a figure that measures the amount of progress a school makes across 8 subject areas) placed the school in the top 15 in Hampshire. Exam results are not the only criteria of how successful a school is - the quality of pastoral care and the extra-curricular opportunities students are given are also very important - but I know that students, parents and staff are very proud of their achievements. I am very impressed with the work ethic of our current Year 11s. I see them attending intervention sessions daily and when I walk around the school during lesson times, I can see how seriously they are taking these final months of education. I am sure their hard work will pay off in August when they receive their results.

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Headteacher: Mr A Govan, BA (Hons), MA Ed.

This week, 260 students enjoyed a Christmas dinner, with many staff also choosing to take part. I was press-ganged into action as a server, much to the amusement of many students. It was great to see so many of our students enjoying a meal together. We have been working with our catering company to improve the current provision at The Hamble School and I hope to be able to offer more events like this in the future

Working with parents

Attendance continues to improve and I would like to thank parents for their support in this. As a parent of three, I like to think I'm a pretty good judge of when my children are ill or not, and I know that I've sent mine in against their protestations only to learn later that they were absolutely fine later that day. It's a judgement call for each family and I wouldn't want anyone to send a child in who is genuinely ill but we know how important it is that children attend school as much as they can. It's no coincidence that attendance and results have risen together over the past three years.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many parents this term and increasing parental involvement is important to me. Next term, I will be setting up some parent clinics, where parents can make an appointment to discuss wider school issues with me. I will write to you again in the New Year to explain how these will work but I hope that they will offer a genuine opportunity for parents to have a voice in the direction of the school.

Staffing update

I feel very privileged to have inherited such an enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Staffing changes are always bittersweet - you hate to see someone go but you are also pleased that staff have secured new opportunities. This term, we say goodbye to two teaching members of staff - Mr Reilly and Mr Burton - who are moving to new positions. We wish them well in their new schools. We also say goodbye to two members of the support staff - Mr Twyman and Mrs Stewart. In particular, I'd like to thank Mrs Stewart for helping me adjust to life in a new school after 11 years in my previous one. Every school has one member of staff who knows absolutely everything and Mrs Stewart has been that person for the last nine years. We will miss her and wish her well in retirement.

I hope that you and your family have a very happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming your son or daughter back to school on Monday 7 January at 8.30am.



A Govan
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.