

4 December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As the autumn term comes to a close I am pleased to give you my update on events and developments at the school.

School events

I hope many of you were able to come to one of the three Oliver! performances. I was thrilled that Mrs Finden offered to produce a musical this year. The performing arts give our students a wonderful opportunity to show off and develop their talents and we were certainly provided with a real treat with the Oliver! production. All the students involved showed a real commitment to the rehearsals and great team spirit and camaraderie. There were also both staff and students helping out in a variety of ways such as lighting, sound, music, costumes and dance. Grateful thanks should be given to all those involved. I believe there are already excited discussions about which show to do next year! If you would like to see the highlights from the show there are some excellent photographs on our website. To continue on the performing arts theme, Rock Challenge rehearsals are progressing very well and we have this performance to look forward to next term.

We also had the opportunity to congratulate our ex-Year 11 students in late November. It was really lovely to see them looking so grown up and to hear about how they are settling into college life. We were joined by Michael Kurn, a local TV and Radio presenter who certainly gave us some inspirational food for thought about following your dreams and taking the opportunities we are offered. Our current Year 11 students are definitely doing this, with excellent attendance at their extended day lessons and a really focused and mature approach to their mock examinations. Well done to them.

Other events this term have included our Personal, Social, Citizenship Development days with which the students have engaged extremely well. This all-round education is an important part of our ethos at Hamble. We were particularly delighted to welcome Chris Lubbe to the school. His experience of apartheid and discrimination in South Africa provided our students with a powerful message and was very well received by all.

I was also delighted with the creative and respectful way our students observed Remembrance this year. Led by Mrs Valleley, the tutor groups decorated wooden poppies and placed them in the ground outside the Skills Centre. This, accompanied by our Remembrance ceremony, was a very fitting way to remember those that lost their lives and all the men and women that serve for us today.

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Working with Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support this term with enabling us to meet one of our whole school objectives, which is to continue to improve the attendance of our students. We are ending the term with an attendance figure of over 95% which is a significant improvement on last year's attendance and bodes well for the students' achievement.

Involving parents in the school is also a key priority for us. The Lorraine Lee session on the teenage brain and how you can support your child has received extremely good feedback and we plan to add more sessions for parents on areas which you would find useful over the coming months. We are starting with our Cyber café which should provide a relaxed environment in which to learn more about the mysteries of social media and how to ensure your child engages safely with new technologies.

Staffing Update

I am pleased to report that we continue to attract and maintain high quality staff in the school and the staffing is very stable. Unfortunately we are saying goodbye to two members of staff at Christmas – both members of staff have achieved promotion to areas in which they have always had ambitions to fulfill and we offer our congratulations and best wishes to these staff – Miss Lock, who has been promoted to Assistant Head and Mr Parnell, who leaves us to become a Year Leader. We are joined by David Needham - an experienced PE teacher, who will be our Director of Sport from January.

The end of term looks to be action packed with the prospect of Christmas lunches, celebration assemblies and a theatre company production of "A Christmas Carol" to help our students prepare for their GCSE Literature examination.

Please remember that the school breaks up for Christmas on Thursday, 21 December at 12.50pm. The school bus service has been altered to accommodate this finish time.

It just leaves me to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming your son or daughter back to school on Thursday, 4 January at 8.30am.

With my warmest 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.