



16 February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

As always, I have much to share about the progress and activities of the school in my spring half term update.

Parental Involvement

As you are aware, we are always looking for ways that parents can be involved in the school and it has been particularly pleasing to see the growth in the number of parents attending our parents' forum. The feedback we get from this is invaluable, so please do look on our website for the topic of the next meeting on Monday, 13 March.

Being a parent governor is another way that parents can make a positive contribution to the school. Currently we have four parent governors on our Governing Body team: Kelly Robinson, Sarah Lomas, Debbie Sinclair and Lucy Pinkstone. We are also in the process of appointing another parent governor following our last appeal. It is extremely useful to get the views of parents in this forum as they bring a wealth of skills and experience to the table. Regular visits to the school take place with the governors looking at progress against our key objectives. I am pleased to report that during the last set of visits which happened in January they were delighted with the progress that is being made. I will update you as soon as the new parent governor appointment is made. The role profiles of all our governors can be found on our website, if you would like to find out more about them and their work with the school.

Pleasingly, attendance rates at parents' evenings are significantly up, demonstrating the keen interest you are showing in your child's progress and this will most definitely have a really positive impact on their achievement. As you are aware, we extended the time of the parents' evenings to 8pm to determine if this made it easier for parents to get appointments with all the staff they needed. We have actually found that the later appointments are not that popular and, of course, the later finish does mean a very long day for staff. We have therefore decided that, following the Year 11 parents evening on 9 February, we will enable appointments to be booked until 7.30pm. This is thirty minutes longer than the original appointment time offered and should be a good compromise. We will continue to monitor the availability of appointments to see if these arrangements work well.

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.

www.thehambleschool.co.uk

T: 023 8045 2105 • F: 023 8045 7439 • general@thehambleschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms L Croke, B.Ed (Hons) MA NPQH

Careers

As I write this our Year 10 students are taking part in JOBFEST – an event which gives them that all important interview experience and information about the next steps in their education. It is lovely to see them looking so smart and grown up in their suits and clearly wanting to equip themselves well in the mock interview process. We received wonderful feedback from the volunteers from business who conducted the mock interviews and I was very pleased to award a headteacher's commendation to three of our students – Urselina Roach, Jade McCarey and Isaac Muirhead, who performed exceptionally well through this process. This event is part of our overall commitment to support students in their choices beyond Hamble. The school was successful last year in ensuring every child found suitable further education or training and the excellent results ensured they were able to go to the provider of their choice. We have established excellent links with our local sixth form colleges and training providers through joint department projects such as those in Art, where our students worked alongside A-level students at Barton Peveril in order to enable them to achieve the highest grade possible in their Art GCSE. It was lovely to hear recently of the success of our students in their post 16 study, with Barton Peveril and Peter Simmons providing us with information about the successes of our past students. Following their two years in sixth form our students are going on to study at a wide variety of universities including: Chichester, Birmingham, Plymouth and Oxford. The range of subjects they are studying is equally widespread and includes subjects such as Medieval History, Economics and Mechanical Engineering to English Language and Literature, Film and Law. This success should certainly inspire our current students.

Year 11

Currently our Year 11 students are taking their second set of pre-public exams (previously known as mocks), in order to help prepare them for their summer examinations. It is, of course, a time of unprecedented change in education, with Maths and English moving to the new 9 – 1 grading system for the first time and new higher demand GCSE and BTEC courses. I have been very impressed by the way both our staff and students have risen to these new challenges, with excellent attendance at our extra Year 11 intervention sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday evening and a high number of our students utilising our new GCSE pod programme which enables them to revise through on-line podcasts. We are opening a new Progress Zone with laptops and study space which will be open to our students before school, during lunchtime and after school in order to support their independent learning. This has been part funded by the Friends of Hamble Parents' Association who donated a large proportion of the money raised at the Victoria Country Park fireworks display last November to buy laptops to use in the Progress Zone. It is fantastic to see the money that was raised being put to such good use for the benefit of all our students. There will be more detail to follow about this in the next edition of The Voice.

Reading

The outstanding GCSE results last summer were no doubt, in part, a result of the strong focus on teaching and learning in the school. We have continued this focus this year, in particular, placing greater emphasis on the importance of reading both for pleasure and around a subject, to gain more in-depth knowledge. This takes place more regularly in tutor time now and in addition Mr Simon Knight is working with our librarian to produce a specific set of reading lists for each year group. These will be available on the website after half term. We would very much appreciate it if you could discuss these with your child/children and encourage them to access as many of the titles as possible. There is a reading journal available to each child so that they can keep a record of the books they have read and we hope this will motivate them to read on a more regular basis. It is widely understood that there is a strong correlation between reading and high achievement and so time spent on this will undoubtedly pay dividends. We are also celebrating World Book Day by asking students and staff to dress up as a character of their choice on Thursday, 2 March and this should also serve to raise the profile of the joys of reading in a fun way.

I hope you have found my update has provided you with some insight into the work of the school this term. I am also grateful to receive feedback on the type of information you would like to hear about in my updates, so please do send your ideas in to me for the next edition at the end of the spring term. We do frequently update our website with the latest events in the school under 'Latest News' so please do visit our website at <http://www.thehambleschool.co.uk>.

It just leaves me to wish you and your family a very good half term break. We look forward to welcoming your son or daughter back on Monday, 27 February.

With my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Croke', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Lisa Croke (Ms)
Headteacher
Achieving Excellence Together