

28 October 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer

Half Term Update

We are writing to inform you that over the last month we have had two monitoring visits at The Hamble School. These have included a one-day visit from Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS) and a one-day Governor visit. I am pleased to report that both days were extremely positive and we were delighted with the feedback.

1. HIAS Visit:

The inspection from HIAS involved a visit from two members of Hampshire County Council staff (both ex Headteachers who are now consultants/ advisors). During the day they visited a number of lessons in a variety of subjects/ year groups. They walked around the school site during break/ lunchtime and met with groups of students and staff (including members of the Senior Leadership Team, Middle Leaders, support staff and new staff).

During the monitoring visit the advisors focussed on the following themes:



- Quality of education (which includes the curriculum, Teaching and Learning)
- Staff Professional Development
- Inclusion (including SEND provision in the classrooms and interventions)
- Attendance
- Mental Health
- Work with outside agencies and Alternative Provisions.

Overall the advisors commented that the visit was an 'uplifting experience'. We have summarised the main findings for your below:

• Quality of Education

This was described as the most positive visit for Quality of Education to date. It was stated that Teaching and Learning continues to improve at pace and there was consistency across all lessons visited. Internal monitoring is extremely positive and shows that lessons are focussed on High Quality Adaptive Teaching. In all the lessons visited, learning objectives were challenging and there were many adaptive teaching strategies observed, such as questioning, use of mini-whiteboards and visualisers.

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The advisors reported that every child has an equal opportunity to learn and make progress, regardless of their starting point. Students in lessons can articulate what they need to do to make progress and there is no passivity – all students are involved. The advisors commented that ‘teaching and learning is completely different to the last Ofsted in September 2022 and has improved at pace since the monitoring visit in February 2024’.

- **Inclusion**

The meeting with the Senior SENDCo was very positive. Transition work with primary schools has been very effective. There has been proactive work with Parents/ Carers and this has included new Student Progress Profiles (SPPs) for all students, weekly Wednesday drop ins and clear Parent/ Carer communication. Reading testing has taken place and appropriate interventions have been put in place to support students. There is a clear aim to ensure that students with SEND are supported with ‘preparation for adulthood’ and this is important for life beyond The Hamble School.

- **Student Voice**

Students all feel safe and know what to do if they need to report a concern. They feel supported and stated that staff care and are willing to listen. Students in Year 7 felt that the transition from primary to secondary school was very smooth and they like the staggered approach to homework. Black History Month was highlighted as a particularly effective personal development topic and students felt this exemplified the inclusive nature of the school. Students in Year 11 stated that they learn about important topics in PSHCRE and are supported with exam preparation.

When asked to identify the ‘best aspects of school life’ students cited a variety of different areas including, the new Year 11 English classes, the use of visualisers in lessons, the introduction of double lessons, an improvement in behaviour around school, the range of wider curriculum opportunities, teacher support, reward points and intervention. They also stated that pace in lessons has improved and learning objectives are challenging, so they are able to make good progress.

- **Staff Professional Development and Staff Voice**

Staff professional development is responsive and driven by monitoring. Staff reported that they have the opportunities to engage in external training using outside agencies and the school is ‘outward looking’. The advisors reported that professional development is clearly having a positive impact and there has been a recent focus on the explicit teaching of exam technique to support students in GCSE classes.

During the meetings with Middle Leaders, support staff and new staff, all staff reported that there is a very positive culture in the school. Behaviour is good and the Senior Leadership Team are approachable. There has been a lot of change but this has all been positive and managed effectively so that staff workload and wellbeing are considered. Staff feel proud to be part of Team Hamble.

- **Other areas of focus and next steps**

It was reported that there are good plans in place to support students with Mental Health and wellbeing and this action plan is continuing to move forward at pace. Attendance strategies are appropriate to ensure that students are in school learning everyday and external agencies and alternative provisions are used effectively when required.

Overall the advisors reported that the school was 'calm and purposeful'. They felt that appropriate behaviour management was used and the site was 'quiet during social times'. It was also stated that the school is 'truly inclusive'. The advisors agreed with our next steps, which are:

- To ensure there is a Student Skills curriculum in place for all year groups, focused around Achieving Excellence Evenings.
- To continue to use the systems and processes in place to ensure that the students achieve the best possible outcomes.

2. Governors Visit:

The monitoring visit from Governors involved five members of our Governing Body visiting the school for one-day. Again, they completed a range of activities including visiting lessons, meetings with staff (including members of the Senior Leadership Team, Middle Leaders, support staff and new staff), meeting students and a walk around the site during break/ lunch time.

During the monitoring day the Governors focussed on the following themes:

- Quality of Education (including curriculum and Teaching and Learning)
- Staff Professional Development
- Inclusion (including SEND provision in the classroom and interventions)
- Attendance
- Mental Health
- Pupil Premium
- Communication.

Overall the Governors felt that we should all be proud of the school and students are provided with an excellent education. The main findings are summarised below:

- **Quality of Education**

Adaptive teaching was seen in all lessons and this included use of mini-whiteboards and visualisers. All students were attentive and engaged. There were no behaviour issues. The classroom environment was happy and very focussed. Governors were particularly impressed with lessons in Maths and English.

- **Inclusion**

Governors stated that changes in SEND have been 'transformational'. The Senior SENDCo is very knowledgeable and Student Progress Profiles (SPPs) are all high quality. There is equal access to an ambitious curriculum for students with SEND.

- **Student Voice**

The Governors reported that students were polite, well-mannered and clearly love the school. They were very positive about the rewards and behaviour system and enjoy getting positive points. Students stated that they know how to report any concerns and feel safe at school. They like the extra-curricular activities and feel that the wider curriculum offers lots of opportunities.

During unstructured time (break/ lunch time) students happily spoke to the Governors and were confident. The Governors felt that the site was calm and quiet, uniform was good and the culture was very positive. They also added that the site looked tidy and the litter was significantly reduced compared to previous visits.

- **Staff Professional Development and Staff Voice**

During the staff meeting with Governors, staff stated that Professional Development was excellent – there are both internal opportunities and a range of external courses they are able to engage with. The staff were all very happy and demonstrated a high level of care. Governors witnessed staff talking to students in a calm manner and commented on the high quality positive working relationship between staff and students.

- **Pupil Premium**


The Governors felt that there was a clear and comprehensive plan in place for Pupil Premium (PP) students (those who are eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years, as well as children previously looked after by a local authority or other care agency) and clear ambition for all children. They also felt that there are plenty of opportunities available.

- **Communication**

The Governors looked at the communication action plan and concluded that the school has made significant improvements in this area. They cited the Curriculum Evenings, Achieving Excellence Evenings and Parent Forum as examples of opportunities for Parents/ Carers to come into school. It was also felt that the different methods of communication (e.g. the Weekly Message, flyers, emails, text messages, social media and the use of Class Charts) all ensure Parents/ Carer stay up-to-date with what is going on at the school.

We do hope that this has given you an overview of the monitoring visits this half term and provides information about the school and our current areas of focus. Our next Parent Forum will take place on Monday 11 November at 6pm. If you have any further questions or would like to find out more, please do join us at this event. Sign up details will be in the next Weekly Message.

Yours faithfully



Miss L. Cambridge

Headteacher



Mrs H Craggs

Chair of Governors

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.