

Thursday 20 January 2022

Dear parents/ carers

## HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

I am taking the unusual step of writing to you about a small number of unrelated but very serious behaviour incidents that have taken place over the past two days.

The lockdowns over the past two years have undoubtedly taken a toll on the mental health of many people in our school community. As a school, we recognise that some students have struggled to readjust to school life and have found social interactions more difficult than previously. This has led to some challenging behaviour in school from a small number of students, with increased hostility towards staff and other students. We have also had to deal with an increased number of overly confrontational communications (both in writing and verbally) from parents and carers.

This week, we have sadly experienced a couple of serious but unrelated breaches to our behaviour policy. These incidents were filmed by other students and generally as a result of issues that had started outside school.

The ethos of our school is very clear. We believe in fostering relationships across the community and are committed to maintaining a culture where students are well-behaved, tolerant, responsible and kind. We continue to work tirelessly in positive partnership with all our families to ensure that there are clear expectations and a real sense of shared understanding and collective responsibility.

I would like to reassure you that myself and the Senior Leadership Team are fully aware of these incidents and that they are being investigated thoroughly in line with due process. Appropriate and proportionate sanctions will be issued to the students once these investigations have taken place.

**[www.thehambleschool.co.uk](http://www.thehambleschool.co.uk)**

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Satchell Lane, Hamble, Southampton, SO31 4NE

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

I ask for your ongoing help, support and partnership with the following:

- If there are incidents that happen outside of school, please let a member of staff know and encourage your child to do the same. The vast majority of incidents begin with peer conflict outside of school, often on social media. We are keen to support all of our students to behave appropriately at school in a positive learning environment. If we know about a potential situation developing, we can work with those involved to resolve the matter.
- Please talk to your child about their use of social media. It is good practice to periodically check their phones to ensure that they are not engaged in risk-taking behaviours. You may wish to insist on your child accepting you as a 'friend' so that you can keep an eye out for potential disputes. Please also ensure that your child is the legal age required to access social media sites.
- Please consider insisting on your children leaving their phones downstairs at night. Most of the problems we pick up are started by late-night arguments on social media which escalate before an adult has the chance to intervene.
- Any child who is caught filming an incident (either in school or during the journey to or from school) is at risk of fixed-term exclusion. Filming and distribution of these clips is extremely harmful to the children involved. We have a strict mobile phone policy- phones should not be out after 0830 until the end of the day. Any phones that are seen will be confiscated until the end of the day. Please speak to your child about the sensible use of their mobile device.
- When you have a concern about something in the school, we welcome you raising this with us respectfully. I understand that some matters are very emotive but aggressive and threatening correspondence is not helpful or accepted (see the 'Code of Conduct For Contacting Us' on the school website), and may be returned to the sender to be rewritten. Similarly, if parents and carers are rude and aggressive towards school staff, communication may be restricted.

The vast majority of students at this school are kind, considerate and fantastic ambassadors for both yourselves and the school. As Headteacher, I have a duty of care to these children to ensure that we are able to offer the best possible standards of education. Your continued support in helping us to achieve this is always appreciated.

If you do have any questions or concerns, please email [general@thehambleschool.co.uk](mailto:general@thehambleschool.co.uk).

Yours faithfully



Mr 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.*