

Dear Parents/ Carers

Change in the Use of Paper – September 2023

I am writing to inform you of some upcoming changes for the new academic year. These changes will support all students to achieve their full potential and enable them to apply strategies learnt at school in adulthood and the world of work.

Since starting in my role as Senior SENDCo at The Hamble School, I have reviewed the provision and support for all young people. I have noted that students whom are identified as dyslexic or having dyslexic traits are then tested for visual strain and a colour of paper is issued for use in lessons. This approach does not support students with Dyslexia as Dyslexia is not a vision-based disorder but instead a neurological difficulty which usually affects phonological processing. This means that interventions such as structured phonic approach and Mnemonic spelling strategies are more appropriate than coloured paper.

The use of colour paper also does not follow the students into adulthood and could cause disadvantage in national examinations where graphs/ charts/ diagrams making use of colour do not copy across well onto the different shade.

As a result, after consultation with a range of professionals we are putting the following measures into place from September 2023:

- 1) All school workbooks will be filled with 'off white' paper to support students with and to reduce visual strain for all.
- 2) All printing paper in the school will be Zerox 'off white'.
- 3) All students who would have previously used colour paper will be able to request a colour filter overlay for use in lessons. This will be issued by the Inclusion Department and details of where to purchase for use at home will be communicated.

Visual strain is something that affects all students, this can be from reading a lot, using a computer etc. Opticians can add an 'anti-glare' coating to glasses which is almost invisible and supports with eye strain, if appropriate.

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For any student who has a diagnosis of visual issues from an ophthalmologist or ophthalmic surgeon where a recommendation of a particular colour paper has been made or colour paper is a named provision within the EHCP, this will still be provided.

I have attached an information sheet to this email and hope that this answers other questions, however, if you would like to discuss your child's needs further, please do not hesitate to contact us at school via general@thehambleschool.co.uk

Please allow 48 working hours for a response.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Dudgeon', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Dudgeon

Senior SENDCo

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.