

Monday 4 September 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

Headteacher Update

It was wonderful to see students back in school today and hear about their summer holidays. When I visited classrooms, students were all working purposefully and engaged in their learning.

I am writing to you to outline some key information which will support your child over the coming months. I would also urge you to read the Weekly Message which is published at the end of every week.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome a number of new members of staff this term. Some replace staff who left us in July, however, we are very fortunate that we have been able to employ some additional teachers and support staff to provide more capacity in key areas. The names and roles of new staff are detailed below:

- Mr Bailey – Teacher of Science, Assistant Progress Leader and Raising Standards Leader for Year 11
- Mrs Bateman – Head of Science
- Mrs Crick – School Inclusion Coach
- Miss Doy – School Behaviour Coach
- Mrs Gaskin – Head of Geography
- Mrs Hassell – Teacher of History
- Miss Hautot – Teacher of MFL
- Mr Holland – Teacher of Media Studies
- Miss Hulbert – Student Support Officer
- Mr Jarvis – Receptionist and Admin Support
- Miss Maher – Science Technician
- Mr Loveridge – Senior Bursar
- Mr Parkes – Teacher of History
- Mr Wells – Teacher of Maths
- Miss Williams – Assistant Head of Science
- Mrs Winchester – Teacher of Maths

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Headteacher: Miss L Cambridge, BSc (Hons), MA Ed. NPQH

There have been some changes to roles within the school – Ms Henry has moved from the Inclusion Department to become a Science Technician, Mrs Bone is now Internal Alternative Provision Lead and Mr Dryden has been appointed as Head of Maths due to Mr L Wood's promotion within the school.

Within the Senior Leadership Team Mrs Morgan and Mrs Valleley have been promoted to Deputy Headteachers and Mr L Wood has become a permanent Assistant Headteacher. Congratulations to them on their appointments.

We have a strong Pastoral Team at The Hamble School and our Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year work extremely hard to support the welfare and wellbeing of the students in our care. We have made the decision that their job titles will now be changed to Progress Leaders and Assistant Progress Leaders. This means that they will still focus on pastoral care but will also have an enhanced role monitoring and supporting students with academic progress, so that students leave the school with the very best outcomes.

Improvements over the summer

During the six weeks summer holiday our support staff have still been in school working extremely hard to improve the site and resources. This summer there have been a number of major projects taking place and I would like to thank Mrs Goodey, Mr Stone, Mr Tarry, Mrs Wrench and their teams for all their hard work. I have outlined some of the improvements below so that you can get a sense of the vast amount of work they have undertaken:

- More benches throughout the site, as requested by the Student Leadership Team for use at break/ lunchtime
- Development of our three new Inclusion rooms, so that they are ready for students accessing these provisions in the autumn term
- Extensive IT improvements to upgrade the network, providing more advanced equipment and ensuring all security is improved
- Refurbished Science labs which will open in the next few weeks
- A refurbished staffroom to support staff wellbeing.

Rewards and recognition

Parents/ carers in Years 8-11 will be aware that we changed our rewards system in February. The aims are:

- To give students recognition for their efforts throughout the year
- Make them feel valued
- Build confidence
- Motivate them to achieve.

The system is aligned to our whole school values of 'We Care, We Aim High, We Learn and Achieve Together'. In addition, rewarding good behaviour enables students to become self-disciplined, take responsibility for themselves and work together as a community.

Students are awarded positive points on Class Charts and our system ensures that students are able to benefit regardless of age or ability. Students work towards certificates and prizes which were chosen by the Student Council.

We also have other rewards such as Headteachers Commendations, Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher and Proud Friday. I look forward to celebrating successes with students this academic year.

Behaviour and school rules

One of our Whole School Priorities is to 'develop an inclusive environment where students enjoy coming to school, attend regularly, are well-behaved, self-regulating, tolerant and respectful'. In order to achieve this, we expect students to wear their uniform correctly, bring the correct equipment to school, be on time to lessons and follow our three school rules of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe'.

I would ask that you read through the details of these rules with your son/ daughter, using the link on our website: <https://www.thehambleschool.co.uk/ready-respectful-safe/> If a student fails to meet these expectations, they will be issued with negative points on Class Charts. Any child who receives -2 in one day will receive a next day afterschool detention – notification of these detentions is also on Class Charts.

You will see in your child's planner a copy of our Home-School Agreement. This needs to be signed by you and your son/ daughter in your child's planner by **Friday 22 September 2023**. Your child's tutor will also sign it on behalf of the school.

Communication

A positive home-school partnership is vital for success at school. Research shows that when parents/ carers and the school work together, students achieve greater academic outcomes. We encourage parents/ carers to get in touch with the school whenever they have questions. The main method of communication is email and you should use general@thehambleschool.co.uk This will then be directed to the relevant member of staff. We operate a 48 working hour response policy.

Class Charts should be used to access daily information about your child and further details about this platform (including your login) have been sent home today in a separate email.

Extra-Curricular Activities

This year we hope to be able to offer a wider range of Extra-Curricular Activities both at lunchtime and after school. The PE Department has kindly offered to open up the Sports Hall at lunchtimes each day to enable students to take part in additional activities. We have purchased some table tennis tables, as requested by the Student Leadership Team for use by all year groups. The Progress Zone will also be open every lunchtime for Year 11 to have a quiet space to study and engage in revision. We will write home with a full list of clubs in due course, however, these will begin on Monday 11 September.

Curriculum Evenings

Last year's feedback from the Parent Survey and Parent Forum meetings suggested that you would like to know more about what your children are studying in school. Mr Wood (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Valleley (Deputy Headteacher) will be hosting Curriculum Evenings for Years 8-11 on the dates listed below.

- Year 8 – Thursday 14 September 5pm-6pm
- Year 9 – Thursday 14 September 6:30pm-7:30pm
- Year 10 – Wednesday 13 September 5pm-6pm
- Year 11 – Tuesday 12 September 6pm-7pm

Year 7 will have the opportunity for a one-to-one meeting with their child's tutor on Thursday 5 October 2023. A letter detailing how to sign up for these evenings, will be distributed in due course.

I look forward to working with you this year. If you ever wish to book a meeting with myself or my Senior Leadership Team, please do email headteacher@thehambleschool.co.uk

Yours faithfully



Miss L Cambridge
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.