

Thursday 28 March

Dear Parent/ Carer

Headteacher Update – Easter 2024

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our improvement journey as a school and thank every member of the community – students, staff, parents/ carers and Governors – for your ongoing support and dedication.

This has been a very successful term for the school community. You will know that in February we had a monitoring visit from Ofsted. The inspectors concluded that there has been rapid, transformational and sustainable change in the areas of behaviour, SEND, curriculum, leadership and communication. They also commented on our positive engagement with the community. If you have not had a chance to read the letter, please do so by visiting our website: <https://www.thehambleschool.co.uk/ofsted-report/>

During this term we had monitoring visits from HIAS (Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service) and a Governors Monitoring Day. HIAS completed a number of learning walks around lessons, spoke to students and looked at their books. They also met with staff and Governors. Their feedback stated that our Teaching and Learning plan is being implemented effectively, improvements to the behaviour system are successful both in lessons and during unstructured time and the changes in Inclusion are now embedded with significant positive impacts for students. They were also very impressed with the students during Student Voice – they could articulate their learning journey effectively and were extremely positive about the school.

This positive change was also echoed during the Governors Monitoring Day. Governors visited a large number of lessons across the school and completed many Student Voice activities. They concluded that the school is 'calm and purposeful', high Teaching and Learning expectations were seen in lessons, students are respectful and staff feel supported and valued. We are extremely proud of the outcomes of these monitoring visits and believe that they verify the positive changes which have been implemented across the school.

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Parent Support

We are grateful for all the support we have had from parents/ carers this term. This week Mr Wood (Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Valleley (Deputy Headteacher) talked to parents/ carers about Teaching and Learning and gained some useful feedback from those who attended. We were also delighted to inform you that Mrs Tonner (Family Support Worker) hosted a very productive PTA launch yesterday – We know the group have lots of ideas of events and activities which will raise money for the school and they are meeting again soon after Easter.

Wider Curriculum Opportunities

This term we have been focusing on increasing our wider curriculum opportunities and we are pleased to report an increase in clubs, trips/ visits, internal speakers and performances. There are too many to list all of them, but over the last month we have had a visit from Arts University Bournemouth, a presentation from a Magistrate in Debate Club, a Mental Health Workshop, primary school sports activities hosted by our Sports Leaders, charity events, World Book Day, visits from Councillors, the Battlefields trip, STEM trips, University Trips and sports matches. We are very proud to share with you that yesterday afternoon the Year 9/10 Girls' Football Team took part in a 7-a-side tournament with other local schools. The girls won 6 out of their 8 games and finished first to qualify for the semi-final and then competed against Brookfield School in the final. The game ended at 0-0 and meant a sudden death penalty shoot-out, which our team won. Congratulations to the students who are now the local girls football champions!

Uniform Reminders

Please do check your son/ daughter has all the correct uniform and equipment over Easter. Our uniform list can be found here: <https://www.thehambleschool.co.uk/uniform/> A reminder that all students must now be wearing the clip-on ties. If your child has lost their tie, new ones can now be purchased direct from the school on Scopay.

Exam Season

As we approach the Summer term, our Year 11 students will soon be taking their GCSE examinations. This is a time for focus and hard work to ensure the success that our students thoroughly deserve. Guiding and supporting students in preparing for their exams is a high priority for us. It is essential that Year 11 students engage in focused revision and preparation for the forthcoming examinations over the next two weeks. It is said that good exam results are made in the Easter holidays.

At Parents' Evening last night, students received a number of resources and a revision booklet to help them. They need to plan a revision timetable and ensure that they have a quiet space to revise at home. We are running a revision programme over Easter and this has already been communicated home. Please do ensure that your child attends these sessions – teachers will be providing important advice and guidance.

The key message now is to make the remaining time count and use time productively. If you or your son/ daughter have any questions regarding revision during Easter, you can email

general@thehambleschool.co.uk . Members of staff will check this periodically to support the Year 11s.

When we return to school Year 7, 8 and 9 have formal examinations. These are an important opportunity for students to experience what it is like to sit examinations in the Sports Hall/ Progress Zone and for our teachers to assess the knowledge/ skills gaps that they need to address before the next academic year. We want students to revise for these exams and materials have been placed on Class Charts, however, they should not worry about them. It is a great opportunity for them try their best and receive valuable feedback.

Staffing Changes

Today we said goodbye to two members of staff. This term Mr Eason (Head of Business and IT) is leaving us to pursue a career outside of teaching and Miss Stapleford is moving to a Special School to continue her passion for working with children with SEND. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to 'Team Hamble'. Mrs Martinez Sykora (Head of MFL) will be temporarily leaving us on maternity leave and we would like to wish her well with her new arrival.

I am pleased to report that we are fully staffed for the summer term and have managed to employ some additional teachers and support staff to give us more capacity across the school. The following staff have either joined us in the last few weeks or will be with us from after Easter:

- Miss Bailey – Assistant Head of History
- Mr Baldwin – Head of IT
- Mr Clark-Lyons – Assistant Head of English
- Mrs Folan – School Inclusion Admin Support
- Miss Hillier – Teacher of Maths
- Miss Hunnybun – Student Support and Guidance Manager
- Mrs Nayyar – Teacher of IT
- Mrs Peczenenko – Finance and Office Manager
- Miss Perry – Assistant Head of RE
- Ms Richards – Student Support Officer
- Miss Riley – LSA
- Mrs Thompson – Acting Head of MFL
- Mr Thomson – Raising Standards Leader for English
- Mrs Whittaker – Attendance and Family Support Manager
- Miss Wilson – LSA

There are a small number of changes to tutors and these are outlined here: <https://www.thehambleschool.co.uk/pastoral-care/>

The Summer term is always busy and exciting. We have lots of opportunities planned and will look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort for transition events.

I do hope you and your family manage to have an enjoyable Easter weekend and I look forward to seeing the students back in school at 8:30am on Monday 15 April 2024.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L Cambridge', written in a cursive style.

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.