

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

End of Term – Autumn 2023

I am delighted to inform you that this term has been a hive of activity. There is so much to report and I hope you have had a chance to read the highlights in our Weekly Message published every weekend and our half termly newsletters. Recently, I have particularly enjoyed getting into lessons and observing students actively engaged in their learning, as well as mentoring Year 11s and hearing how successful they have been in their Mock Exams.

We continue to work very hard on our improvement journey to ensure 'A high quality provision inside and outside the classroom, which enables all students to achieve the very best outcomes and become lifelong learners'. This term we have had monitoring visits from Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service (HIAS) and Governors. All have reported that the school is making 'rapid improvement'. HIAS have been particularly impressed by our behaviour and rewards system which has resulted in 'calm and purposeful lessons'; the new Inclusion provision which has ensured that 'SEND students are supported effectively' and the strategy we have in place to support Year 10 and 11 students at Key Stage 4.

A particular highlight for me over the last half term has been listening to our wonderful Musicians at various events, from the Collaborative Concert with local primary schools to Thursday's Community Carols. I was delighted to find out this week that we have been awarded the 'Music Mark' by Hampshire Music Service in recognition of the value we place on Music and the opportunities we provide our students.

We have launched our Community Initiatives over the last month and now run a very successful Breakfast Club and Food/ Clothing Bank. I would like to thank all parents/ carers who have supported this with donations. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tesco, the Rotary Club and a member of the community who have all provided goods and vouchers to support our families over the Christmas period. A reminder that our Food Bank is open on Wednesday 20 December 9am-10am for collections.

We know that this time of year can be difficult for some. If you do have any concerns about your own child or other children/ families over the holiday, please do use the help available on this link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/contacts> Further wellbeing advice is also available on our website: <https://www.thehambleschool.co.uk/student-wellbeing-resources/>

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Staffing Changes

At this time of year we always say 'goodbye' to staff. This term we have four members of the team leaving us for new roles. Ms Bridges (English) and Mr Wickenden (History) are leaving to take up promotions in other schools. Mrs Griffiths (History) is moving on to another role working in a special school and Mr Griffiths (LSA) leaves us for a relocation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution to 'Team Hamble' and wish them the very best for their new jobs.

I am pleased to inform you that we are fully staffed for January and there are minimal changes to teaching timetables. Individual details will be available on Class Charts from 2 January and your child will be issued with a printed copy of their timetable when we return. Tutor group changes are all outlined on our website here: <https://www.thehambleschool.co.uk/pastoral-care/>

Progress Reports

Years 8-11 will be issued with a Progress Report in the next few days – This will be emailed home. We would ask that you complete the feedback form on the letter before 2 January 2024 so that we can respond to any questions you may have and book parent/ carer meetings as appropriate. Teachers are also looking forward to discussing the progress of students in Year 11 and Year 7 at Parents Evenings' in the new year (Year 11 – 4 January, Year 7 – 11 January). Booking details have already been emailed to parents/ carers.

Rewards

It has been wonderful to award so many Headteacher Commendations this term and hear about the activities students are engaged in, both inside and outside of school. I have met with many students during 'Hot Chocolate' Friday and very much enjoyed the discussions about what they are enjoying at school and their ideas about how we can continue our improvement journey.

I am delighted that so many students have achieved Recognition Prizes since September. 1042 students have achieved their Bronze Award, 799 students have gained Silver, 336 students have been awarded Gold and 66 students have achieved their Ruby Award. These are amazing achievements and I am so proud of all the students. I was pleased to hear that Bella J (Year 8) was awarded our first Platinum Award of 2023-24 yesterday – Congratulations to you. This award represents a lot of hard work and dedication to school life.

Reward points are available for a variety of 'positive behaviours' and activities, such as good attitude to learning, excellent class and homework, positive contributions to school life, being socially responsible and attending extra-curricular clubs. I look forward to hearing that many more students have achieved Recognition Prizes in the new year; you can find out more about our reward system here: <https://www.thehambleschool.co.uk/rewards-recognition/>

Expectations

We have high expectations in terms of behaviour and uniform. Over the Christmas break I would ask you to ensure that your son/ daughter has everything they need for the new term and their uniform meets our requirements. I have attached the uniform and equipment list to this email for your reference.

A message from Mrs Craggs (Chair of Governors)

During what has been an incredibly busy term, it has been fantastic to see the school making huge amounts of progress and having that confirmed during various visits and feedback.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated team of staff. Their contributions to the school's journey are so important and valued. Governors recognise that this has been a period of huge change and are grateful to the whole of 'Team Hamble' for working together to continually improve the education experience and outcomes for all students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff and students for their hard work this term. I also appreciate the support from parents/ carers and the community. I do hope that you and your family have a wonderful break and manage to enjoy the festive period. I look forward to seeing everyone at 8:30am on Tuesday 2 January.

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.