



Swaffham Hamond's High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College



Maths &
Computing

'Respect, Learning, Pride'

Spring First Half Term Newsletter March 2011

Headship Appointment Process

After a national advertisement, the governors were very pleased to receive a large number of high quality applications for the post of headteacher. They will be interviewing six candidates from around the country on Thursday and Friday of this week and we hope to inform you on Monday of the outcome.

Photoshoot

Most visitors to our school remark on our fantastic posters that are displayed around the school containing inspirational comments and images of our students engaged in learning. It is now time to refresh our supply of posters and a photographer will be in school this week to begin to work on a new set which we hope will be up towards the end of this term. We are really looking forward to seeing them.

Learning Conference Day

Thank you to all parents and carers who supported us on our Learning Conference Day a few weeks ago on 31 January. The day was very successful and we had a high turnout, as we expect. There is only one learning conference day in our school now as we also run traditional parents' evenings for all year groups across the year. We hope that this gives an appropriate level of face to face time with both form tutors and classroom teachers.

Parent Survey

On the learning conference day many of you filled out our parent satisfaction survey and we were delighted with the feedback that we received from you across a range of issues in the school. These are the best survey results we have ever received and indicate to us that we are heading in the right direction and that our work is acknowledged and supported by our parents.

Every single section on the survey showed an improvement on last year (with the exception of helping your child to adopt a healthy lifestyle – more work clearly needed on that one). The most significant improvements were in the way that we deal with behaviour and in the way that the school is led and managed. Most categories scored over 90% satisfaction with a 93% rating for being very happy with the child's overall experience. Interestingly, Year 7 parents gave this a 100% rating!

Admission Numbers for 2011

The number of students applying for the school from junior schools has shown an increase on last year and we can clearly see an improving trend which we know will continue to rise as the community begins to see the quality of education that is now evident in the school. There are even parents who in October applied for other schools who are now changing their minds and returning to our school. There has also been a significant increase of in-year admissions to our school from parents either moving into the area or choosing to return to their local school.



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Little Shop of Horrors

The annual school production of Little Shop of Horrors is in the final stages of rehearsal. We are very proud of the efforts and talents of the cast and grateful to Mrs Johnson, Mrs Shervington and Mrs Smith for their work with them. Fund raising events will occur shortly and we look forward to exciting performances on 30 March to 1 April.

Decoration

Over half term we upgraded and extended the quality of our paintwork around the school. We have found that painting the corridors in gloss up to 1.4 metres in height ensures a quality finish that stays clean and presents a tidy and new feel which has now been extended throughout the school. You will notice the difference when you next visit.

Comic Relief Day

Once again we are pleased to support this national charity in our school on Friday 18 March. It will be a non-uniform day for students who donate £1 to this popular and important event. We welcome students who enter into the spirit of the day by really making an effort with interesting and appropriate costumes relevant to the day.

Activities Week

Planning is well under way for our Activities Week which will be from 4 to 8 July this year. We have a number of interesting and exciting opportunities planned both in and out of school for our students including residential trips. Thank you to parents who have already supported this in advance.

Year 11 Exams

Written GCSE and GCE exams will start on the 16 May and continue until the 28 June. All Year 11 students will receive statement of entries from the exam board together with the school's exam handbook before the Easter holidays.

Staff Absence

Mr Bowers, one of our maths teachers is currently off school as he has had an operation which will take him a few weeks to recover from. We wish him a speedy recovery. A specialist maths teacher is currently taking his classes.

Attendance rates for our teaching staff are currently very high and this is having a very positive impact on our school. Students are always more settled when they have their regular teachers. In fact, on 1 February last month, which is the day on which absence from work is at its highest nationally, we started our day with 100% teacher attendance here at Swaffham Hamond's High School. A clear indication that our teachers love coming to work!

Up and Coming Events

- Thursday 10 and Friday 11 March: Headship Interviews
- Thursday 24 March: Year 8 Consultation Evening 16:00 to 19:00
- Tuesday 5 April: Year 10 Leadership Day
- Friday 08 April: Last day of spring term
- Tuesday 26 April: First day of summer term

You will find a copy of this newsletter on our website at:

www.hamondshighschool.co.uk