



2018 Newsletter 2

Grease was the word!



‘Director’s note...’

Although I’ve directed a number of school production over the years, ‘Grease’ was my first production at Hamilton.

The first thing that struck me about the cast was how hard they were willing to work. All were prepared to give up their weekend prior to the first performance to ensure ‘Grease’ was up to the standard of previous shows. They all worked non-stop from 8:30 through to 3:30 each day, only stopping for two fifteen minute breaks. Even on the days of the performance, not only were the students still at school after nine o’clock at night but they were all back in school by eight thirty for a full day of studying.

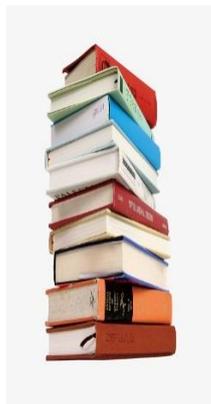
The second thing I noticed about the cast was their perseverance to get things right. I remember when we were rehearsing ‘Magic changes’ how no one complained or gave up when we kept rehearsing the same few bars of harmonies over and over again. After nine pages of feedback notes all the cast wanted to make sure that they acted upon the feedback to improve their performances the next night.

The third thing about the cast which stood out was how friendly and supportive they were to one another. Helping each other with lines, rehearsing individual scenes and making sure all the props and costumes were where they were meant to be, most of the time (what happened to your burger Roger!) Most of them stayed after school to eat together and chill out ready for the next performance, although I did notice that Ms O’Hanlon did become their personal take-away delivery service.

Finally, I feel proud to have been part of such a fantastic production and feel humbled by the cast’s energy, enthusiasm and eagerness to be the best they possible can. A talent group of students who have shown us all what can be achieved by hard work and commitment. Well done.

World Book Week Extravaganza!

Every year schools, libraries, bookshops and more come together to universally celebrate a love of books and reading. This year, Hamilton Academy has been doing its bit by having lots of fun book-related activities take place in the Library and during form time. There have been competitions, quizzes, word searches, crosswords, a treasure hunt, photo booth – all of which have taken place in the Library. Then in form time, students had the chance to guess the morphed pictures of teachers with book characters. For every activity a student completed during the week, they got a House Point so the friendly rivalry between Houses came into play as students tried and see which House could complete the most activities. On World Book Day itself staff dressed up as their favourite characters and it was great to see so many of them getting into the spirit of things. It proved a great week with so many ways for staff and students to develop and share a love of books.



Visit to Creative Learning Services.

Miss Hill and Mrs Hovey-Brown took 12 students to Creative Learning Services, a large library where Leicestershire schools are able to borrow books, artefacts and more. The students were shown around the large space and worked in teams to pick 500 books for Hamilton Academy's Library. There was such a large selection of books for all ages and interests that it was very hard to choose which books to pick. We were all made to feel very welcome and were offered drinks and biscuits – much needed sustenance after walking around all those shelves. It was a successful trip and enjoyed by all. The 500 books are now in our Library and ready for all Hamilton students and staff to borrow. Hopefully these new books will add to our already extensive selection of books and encourage everyone to develop a love of reading.



The Five Thousand Tin Challenge



At Mosaic Food Bank we give away hundreds of tins every week to the poor and needy in our city. We are seeing an increasing number of households who are struggling with food poverty. To help meet this need we are launching the Five Thousand Tin Challenge.

We would like to invite people to partner with us in raising a donation of five thousand tins for our food bank before Easter. Our most needed tins are:

Tinned meat balls and meats	Tinned baked beans
Tinned tuna or other fish	Tinned vegetables
Tinned tomatoes	Tinned fruit
Tinned soups	Tinned rice pudding or custard

Donations can be dropped off at
Manor House Community Centre Haddenham Road
Leicester LE3 2BG
Email: foodbank@mosaicchurch.org.uk

mosaic
foodbank
loving people

Mosaic Foodbank is part of Mosaic church initiatives and operates at Manor House community Centre every other Thursday from 1.00pm to 3.00pm and alternate Wednesday from 11.7.20pm.
Mosaic Clothing scheme operates every other Tuesday by appointment.
Mosaic Church meets every Sunday at The BRIT Centre from 10.30 to 12.15pm

Hamilton Students working together to help others.

Students and staff are busy hunting through their cupboards to bring in tins of food to try and help complete the 'Five Thousand Tin Challenge.' This is a fantastic opportunity to show how caring and supportive Hamilton students are and how much they care for struggling members of society.

Mr Fairclough, who is heading the initiative, is extremely proud of all the students who contributed and would like to thank all those who helped to offer this event to the College. He is sure that the recipients will be grateful and pleased with the offerings from Hamilton Academy.

Mindfulness Week.

There have been a range of wonderful activities taking place across the College to help students achieve a level of Mindfulness beneficial to increased concentration and academic success. The activities ranged from breathing exercises to calm colouring. Students spent each tutorial experiencing various techniques and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Students feel they now have the necessary skills to approach most situations with a calm, clear and open attitude.



Other events included yoga and breathing exercises during PE lessons. Students were given the opportunity at the end of the lesson to take time out to concentrate on breathing and achieving a calm, relaxed state.



Eco School Award!

Hamilton student council is going for Leicester city Eco-Schools award. It is the largest and fastest growing sustainable schools programme in the world. As part of the award, the student council will be working towards Fairtrade Fortnight, selling Fairtrade goods and providing competitions for tutors. They will also take part in Leicester biggest litter cleaning campaign. During the morning students will litter pick in the playground supervised by school staff. Equipment and gloves will be provided. Students will be told about how to safely litter pick and what to do if they



find anything dangerous. The student council are working hard on their campaigns to raise more awareness about the environment and sustainability. You can learn more by following the [#LitterLess](#) [#LeicesterLitterLess](#) [#GBSpringClean](#).

Leicester Youth Council



Hamilton has a year 10 student standing in this year's elections for the Leicester Youth Council. Yasmin has been inspired by citizenship lessons and wants to make a difference in her community by representing the voice of the Humberstone and Hamilton ward. Hamilton students will go to the polling stations on 13th March, let's hope we can get her elected!

Enterprise Challenge.

Y10 Business students set up a stall in the Highcross Shopping Centre on Sunday from 8:45 until 5:15 selling their idea of a safety bracelet to the public. The students sold over £100's worth of stock and were absolutely amazing even though they were struggling to stand at the end of the day. A fantastic effort and a wonderful opportunity to experience the world of entrepreneurial business.

Teaching and learning home help tips.

Teach your child that studying is more than just doing homework assignments.

One of the most misunderstood aspects of schoolwork is the difference between studying and completing homework tasks. Encourage your child to do things like:

- take notes as they are reading a chapter
- learn to skim material
- learn to study tables and charts
- learn to summarize what they have read in their own words
- learn to make their own flashcards for a quick review of key facts like dates, formulas and key subject terminology.

Should parents help with homework?

Often, yes! You can support your child by asking them to explain out loud their thinking about a problem, calling out words for them to spell or checking a maths problem using a calculator. However, if your son/daughter can clearly handle the task then let them work independently on it and learn from the process. Help and support should always be calmly and cheerfully given. Go through instructions and read their work after they have completed it. Remember to make positive comments – you don't want your child to associate homework with arguments at home!