

Hamilton News

Getting ready for the year ahead!



Hamilton
Academy

Summer 2018

On the up!

Improvements noted in Challenge Partners Visit

In March this year we were visited by **Challenge Partners**. A Challenge Partners' Review is completed by a lead Ofsted inspector and four senior leaders from other schools across the country. The team seeks to identify the **strengths and areas for development for a school**.

We received our Report and are pleased that Challenge Partners **identified the improvements made by Hamilton Academy over the past year**. In particular, the

report noted clear **improvements in behaviour of students** at the Academy and the steps that we have taken to achieve this, which has made us very proud.

As always, **there remain further improvements to be made** and at Hamilton we are always striving for excellence, therefore we have **written this Newsletter to remind**

parents, carers and students about the standards we expect in order to achieve our very best!

Don't forget - the Academy re-opens for:

Yr7s—Weds 29th Aug

Yr8-11—Thurs 30th Aug

At 8.15am. Lesson 1 starts at 8.30am



So, what did Challenge Partners say?

Here are some of the points made in the Challenge Partners' Review:

'Hamilton Academy is now in a demonstrably more positive position... there is a palpable sense of optimism'

'Staff and students are on board with the need for change. There is a common view about the difference made by the adoption of revised behaviour for learning approaches in allowing other strategies to have a positive impact on learning.'

'Students are very clear that the school has changed, particularly in terms of the way they feel cared for. Students are proud of being part of this school'

'The behaviour for learning approach has provided a clear focus on key expectations and the establishment of systems and routines.'

'Students are responding well to these expectations and the professional but respectful way in which teachers speak with them.'

'The vast majority of students are engaged with learning'

'Middle leaders have passion, drive and determination'

'There are constructive relationships with the Trust and, in particular, the Teaching School'

The full report is available on our website.



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Dressed for Success!

As you know, from August 2018 Hamilton Academy students will wear our new, super smart school uniform!

We are very proud of our new uniform as it will help to ensure students look professional and ready for learning, whilst offering better value for money than our previous uniform.

We are rolling the **new uniform out to students in Yr7-10 initially**. Current Yr11 students will be allowed to choose to wear either the new uniform or the old uniform. From **August 2019 ALL students** will wear the new uniform.

As a reminder, students must wear:

- Navy Blue Blazer with Academy logo
- Academy Tie
- Mid grey trousers. These must not be leggings, jeggings or jeans. They must not be tight fitting
- OR Blue Tartan Skirt
- Plain white, collared school shirt which buttons to the neck. Polo shirts are not acceptable.

- Grey V-neck Academy jumper (optional)
- Plain, all black shoes.
- Grey/Navy socks or tights

A headscarf, turban or topis may be worn but must be **plain navy, black or white**. These must be tucked into the collar of shirt so **full tie can be seen**.

Students must bring a **suitable school bag**.

Coats must be plain navy or black with no obvious logos. Hoodies are not allowed in school. There are no hats or caps allowed inside.

Earrings must be discreet and no bigger than a two pence piece.

Students are allowed to wear a **discreet, single nose stud** but nose rings are not allowed. No other visible facial piercings are allowed, this includes clear retainers.

As we are a professional environment, any **make-up must be kept to a minimum**. **Hair colour and style must not be extreme**. The academy decides what is considered acceptable.



Alfie and Ella look very smart in our new uniform

Mobile phones - not so smart!

Mobile phones are an important part of most people's lives, and we know that parents and carers appreciate being able to contact their children before and after school.

However, **strong research has shown that mobile phones are a real distraction for students** and will negatively affect their learning. Studies have shown that banning or restricting students' access to their mobile devices can improve learning considerably—GCSE results at the Ebbsfleet Academy in Kent have almost doubled since the school banned smartphones in 2013!

At Hamilton we have the following new policy in place:

- Mobile phones and other devices are banned within the Academy and its grounds
- Students are NOT ALLOWED to use these in lessons, corridors, at break or lunchtimes
- If a student is seen with a device it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day
- If a student is seen with a device on a second occasion, it will be confiscated and parents will be asked to collect it.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that our young people are focused on learning and achieving their very best.



Getting the ‘Basics’ right!

At Hamilton, **all students are considered to be good pupils with great potential, and we view each day as a fresh start.** Therefore, **all students are awarded 18 House Points each day** (the ‘Basics’) which are theirs to keep. **Trips, the Prom and other rewards are linked to our House Points** so it is important that students do not lose their House Points and attempt to gain extra ones through their behaviour and attitude.

Punctuality: Students are expected to arrive on time for school and for each lesson. 1 Point is deducted if a student is late to school or any lesson.

Uniform: Students have 1 point for being in full uniform for **each lesson.** A teacher will deduct the point if they arrive to any lesson with:

- Missing tie
- Missing blazer
- Missing lanyard
- Incorrect shoes
- Incorrect trousers/skirt

Equipment: Student are expected to be fully equipped for each lesson. Individual class teachers will be clear regarding the equipment that is need-

ed in their lesson but is likely to include:

- Bag
- Pencil case
- Homework
- PE kit
- Any other equipment needed for a lesson—the teacher will make this clear

Teachers will deduct 1 point per lesson for failure to have the correct equipment.

Rewards bring Rewards!
 Students gain Bronze, Silver and Gold Certificates and Badges for their lanyards for keeping ‘the Basics’ and earning extra House Points. Students with the highest HHP are also rewarded each Half-term with a free Event or Trip

Actions have Consequences...

At Hamilton we are proud of our students, their attitude to learning and their behaviour.

Our rules are simple, and focused on ensuring we are all able to work and learn in an environment which is safe and effective for learning . We summarise these expectations as the **3Rs**:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Responsible

Students are rewarded for meeting the 3Rs with additional House Points.

However, there are times when students behaviour may fall short of what we expect and therefore needs correcting.

At Hamilton we operate a **Consequence system** which is focused on helping students to understand that all actions have consequences:

- C1 - First Warning** that behaviour doesn’t meet the 3Rs. Teachers will explain to students how their behaviour is failing to meet expectations and what change is needed. Students lose 2 House Points.
- C2 - Final Warning.** If students do not

make a change after advice at C1, they are issued a C2. Students lose 3 House Points and are advised to change their behaviour and focus on learning.

C3 - Parked. If students fail to respond to warnings and advice they are removed from the classroom to work with another teacher. They lose 4 House Points. They receive **an hour Reflection** after school.

C4 - ICE. If a student still does not change their behaviour they are removed by On-Call and taken to ICE to reflect on their behaviour and make the change that is needed. The teacher will deduct 5 House Points and students will **receive an hour and a half Reflection** after school.

What is Reflection?

Reflection is our after school detention system. It is called Reflection because students are expected to reflect on their behaviour and talk about how they can make changes to avoid making the same mistakes again.



As part of Reflection, students may be asked to carry out Community Service. This is a valuable part of demonstrating a commitment to the Academy. You are **informed about a Reflection the night before by text message**—please make sure we have your correct telephone numbers.

REACH - Our Satellite School

Helping all students to 'REACH' their potential

Parents may be aware of our REACH Centre, which opened in 2016. From this academic year we are redefining its use in order to offer bespoke support for our students. In summary the **REACH Satellite School will offer:**

- **Reintegration** - Bespoke mentoring and support, with learning which mirrors lessons in the main school, for students who are persistently absent from school to get them 'back on track' and able to attend regularly.
- **Re-engagement** - small group settings for students who are finding it difficult to cope in mainstream lessons. This work focuses on staff modelling positive attitudes and purposeful learning behaviours for young people, alongside creative or vocational learning for a fixed period of time before students are successfully returned to lessons where their progress can be monitored.

Our Satellite School is staffed by ex-

pert staff with a wealth of experience in supporting students with the greatest challenges and vulnerabilities. These staff will provide bespoke interventions for students which are varied and personalised to each individual but are often, as you would expect, connected to their emotional health and well-being and might include work such as Anger Management, Building Positive Self-Esteem, Coping with Family Life or Dealing with Loss, for example.

The satellite school has well-equipped classrooms, as well as intervention spaces and space for social eating and outdoor activity which is important for helping to develop positive relationships and appropriate social skills.

The Satellite School also houses our School Counsellor and School Nurse whose work complements to work of the team to ensure that students access all the support that they require in order to address their needs and be successful.

Students accessing the Satellite School will be carefully identified by a panel of staff in school, linking with other experts such as Educational Psychologists as necessary. Parents will always be fully informed if their child is considered to need this provision and we will work closely together to get the best outcomes for students.



Internal Exclusion - support for when 'things go wrong'

The vast majority of students at Hamilton do the right thing and make themselves and their parents proud. However, as with all schools, there may be times when a student's behaviour is very serious and additional action must be taken. We are committed to reducing the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions and wish to continue to work with all students for as long as we possibly can, therefore, like most schools in Leicester and beyond, we operate a system of **Internal Exclusion** for serious incidents. All cases are individual, however serious incidents are likely to include:

- Verbally abusive language towards staff
- Racist, sexist, homophobic language or bullying
- Aggressive behaviour
- Behaviour which puts student's own or other people's health and safety at risk or which brings the Academy into disrepute.

Internal Exclusions will take place **in our REACH Satellite School** from **1pm-5pm**. Internal Exclusions **may be issued on the same days as the incident or to begin the next day**. A set number of days will be given based on the seriousness of the incident and parents will be informed, usually by telephone.

Once in Internal Exclusion clear expectations must be met to avoid a further sanction. These include:

- Being in full uniform
- Handing in mobile phone and other devices at the start of each session
- Completing all set work
- Following our 3Rs

For live updates: Follow us on Twitter - @HamiltonLeics

