



Headteacher's Half Term Round-Up

Miss Concannon

As we approach the conclusion of yet another term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our journey so far this academic year and express my thanks for the dedication, hard work, and commitment that each member of our school has demonstrated.

Unfortunately we are having to say farewell to the following members of staff who are moving on to new ventures: Ms Carroll, Ms Haines and Mr Newman. We wish them well in their new ventures and thank them for all that they have done to support Hamilton School and the students.

It has been lovely to see our school community welcoming the residence of Lakeside Residential to our site and engaging in festive activities with them.

Year 11 have impressed me this half term by completing a week work experience with employers in our local community; giving them all an insight into what working life is like and opening their eyes to the different careers out there. Thank you to Mr Versace and EBP for arranging such successful placements!

During the month of December we have had an additional member join our school community causing mischief and turning up in some very obscure places – the Hamilton Elf! Students have enjoyed hunting him down everyday and participating in our school Elf Bingo!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year for 2024. I look forward to greeting the students back to school on Monday 8 January 2024.

Director's View

Mal Fjord-Roberts - Director of Special Education, Maiden Erlegh Trust

This term our Trust aim has been to ensure that our SEN curriculum continues to develop further, meeting the needs and interests of our pupils. We know that engaged and interested learners make greater progress and we are working tirelessly across the SEND setting to ensure that our high expectations are met and exceeded. The introduction of Forest School at Hamilton School this term has seen really positive engagement from our learners and helping them build their social skills.

Hamilton School is part of the Special and Alternative Provision Hub within the Maiden Erlegh Trust and this year we have welcomed Oak Tree School into the SEN hub this term and it has been great to see the progress staff and pupils have made in giving the school its culture and identity.

It has been an exciting term for Hamilton School with improved levels of parent and pupil engagement, and we are excited for the new year.

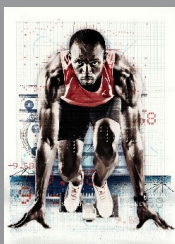
Art

Mr Woolford

During this term we have been working on lots of different things in Art. We have looked at colour theory; primary colours and secondary colours, cold and warm colours as well as complementary and harmonizing colours.

We have also looked at practicing our drawing skills using tone and shade to help create 3D forms.

Currently in years 7-9 and year 11 we are researching the creation and use of masks from different cultures. This has led to the pupils designing and creating their own masks from cardboard and paper mache. Year 10 have been looking at an artist called Alex Williamson and are creating a Sports related artwork.



Next term year 7 will be looking at mark making and the work of Van Gogh. Year 8 and 9 will be looking at the work of Michael Keck and creating their own animal/pet collage. Year 10 and 11 will be creating their own portrait inspired by Julian Opie, Vik Muniz and Eduardo Morales.

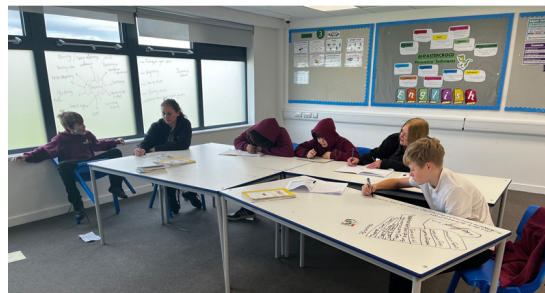
English

Ms Haines

Happy Festive season from Team English!

For Key Stage three students, we have been enjoying the gritty novel, 'Brock' and cementing the reciprocal reading skills of predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising.

Year 10 students have completed the first component in their Step Up to English qualification and Year 11 have been practising summarising, comparing and analysing viewpoints in texts. These are some of the key skills required for their Language GCSE next year.



Physical Education

Mrs Burford

This half term has been as busy as ever! All groups have been working well in their PE lessons learning new skills.

Some groups have been to the tennis courts for tennis lessons and worked super well whilst out there. We are looking forward to using the tennis courts more often when the weather is dry!

Pine class devised a new version of dodgeball which has been rolled out across some classes and has been played really well. Instead of being 'out' if you are hit by a ball, the opposition get a point. However, if your throw is caught, your team loses a point!

Year 11 looked at the Paralympics and tried their hands at playing 'sitting volleyball' and also goalball, which they found challenging but enjoyable.



Food Technology

Mr Bartenbach

We have had a fantastically festive half term in Food Tech. We have been making Christmas cakes, honing our skills in selecting the correct ingredients and weighing them out; mixing and incorporating ingredients, and most importantly, rolling out icing and decorating our cakes.

Apart from making other festive treats, such as mince pies, we have partnered with Forest School and have been cooking out on open fires. The bacon sandwiches have been particularly delicious!

We are looking forward to creating more culinary delights next term.

Forest School

Mr Russell

This half term we have been experimenting with fire making across the curriculum, covering aspects of Food Technology, Science, Design & Technology and Personal Development.

To name but a few activities:

- Sharpened our culinary skills, cooking a variety of food and popping popcorn in sieves over the open flames
- Learnt how to use a flint and steel and a ferro rod to ignite a fire
- Explored different fire builds and how to keep a fire going
- Taken part in rope burn competitions
- Explored how to build fires underground: perfect for autumnal windy days!
- Learnt how to make charcoal on a small fire, donating what we've produced to the Art Department
- Made charcloth out of socks, using them as fire lighters.
- Used saws to cut down wooden pallets for firewood
- Continued with whittling skills

All of this has supported the development of problem solving, communication, perseverance and resilience as they manage times such as when their fires go out or they find it difficult to get them started, with parallels drawn between these experiences and the difficulties they may face with their academic work.

When we return in January we will be doing more advanced fire cooking, exploring more survival skills and learning to master a wider range of relevant tools.



If you have any pallets, please consider donating them to school for us to use and upcycle in Forest School. Please do get in touch with the office and we can arrange to collect from you.

Maths

Mr Ramsamy

KS3 started the term learning about the Cartesian Plane. They plotted and drew different variations of the straight line graph. Next up was data. They learnt about the different types of data and how to compile, read, and interpret tables of data. They will learn about probability in the last week of term. Next term they will learn some algebra which will include equations and inequalities

Year 10 started the term by learning how to solve equations. They then moved onto learning about inequalities and how to solve linear inequalities. Next up was learning how to solve two equations simultaneously. Next term they will learn some geometry which will include vectors and bearings.

The year 11 started off with expanding and factorising (Algebra). They then moved onto solving equations and inequalities. They have also started working GCSE exam papers so that they get a feel of exactly what is required of them in the actual exams. Next term they will continue with more algebra and then onto geometric reasoning.



Work Experience

Mr Versace

Careers at Hamilton has taken a positive step forward this term with the first work experience placement since the Covid pandemic.

Thanks to our colleagues at Education Business Partnership (EBP), our students are completing a week-long placement at a range of centres, in fields ranging from customer service and retail to logistics and storage.

One of our students, who was unable to secure an external placement this time around, has taken on the role of a teaching assistant for the week and has stepped up to the role brilliantly. One other student is completing his week-long experience working on the family business, with extended working hours than he would complete at school.

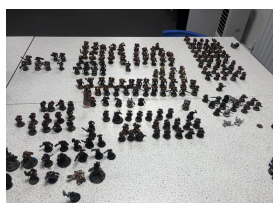
A big thank you to all those placements who have taken on our students for this week and given them an invaluable opportunity to experience the world of work. We look forward to working with you all again in the future.

If you would be interested in finding out more about work experience, or anything else to do with Careers at Hamilton, please get in touch with Mr Versace through the school office.

Warhammer Club

Mr Woolford

We are going to be setting up a Warhammer club at school very shortly as part of enrichment. To help us with this the owner of Worcester Wargames donated this entire collection of models to help us get started. We so grateful for this kind donation from the hobby community and look forward to getting some of the boys playing.



Reward Trip

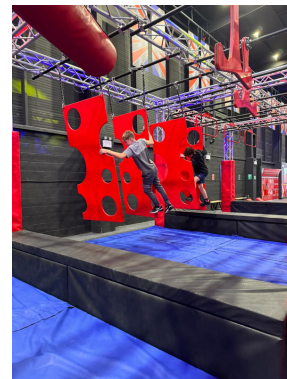
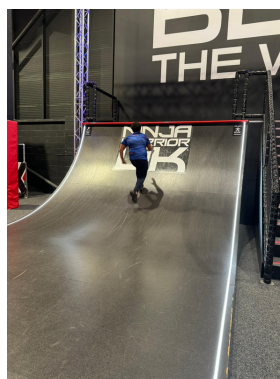
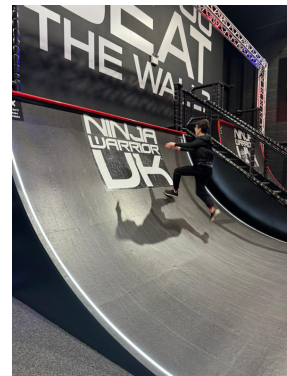
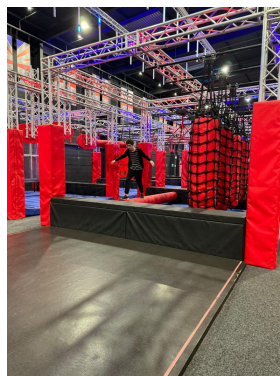
Ms Carroll

Every term, our top ten point scorers are selected to attend a reward trip. This term, students went to Ninja Warrior in Guildford.

Testing their physical limits and powers of perseverance, our students were climbing, jumping, swinging across obstacles, running up ramps, balancing... and most importantly, having FUN!

It was fantastic to see the students helping an encouraging each other with the more tricky obstacles. There was a real team atmosphere on the day and it was lovely to hear the boys chatting about their common experience on the way back to school.

We're looking forward to our next trip at the end of next half term and will be encouraging our students with their points balances.



Christmas at Hamilton





Uniform Expectations

A reminder that students in all years at Hamilton School are expected to wear a school uniform, as follows:

- **Plain white polo shirt (i.e. with collar)**
- **Black/dark trousers – not jeans**
- **Dark shoes/trainers**
- **Burgundy sweatshirt/hoodie with school logo (students have been supplied with these)**
- **Black coat**

Attendance & Absence

We continue to focus on attendance and absence.

Overall attendance this term has been 67.38%. During this time, a total of 338 days of learning have been lost to unauthorised absence: absence that has not been agreed by the school and is not related to illness or alternative educational activities. In addition to this, we have seen 31 instances of late arrivals by students, impacting on learning time*.

If you provide transport for your child, or they make their own way to school, please ensure that they arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am.

If your child is unwell, please email hamadmin@maidenerlegitrust.org by 9am.

**Figures as of 19 December 2023*



Staffing Updates

Ms Conroy

We wanted to inform you of some staffing updates at Hamilton. Unfortunately we have had a few valued team members decide to pursue new opportunities and as a result there will be some changes in our staff team after Christmas. We will be saying goodbye to the following staff and wish them all the best in their next adventure!

Katie Haines - Head of English

Josh Newman - Student Support Lead

Natasha Carroll - Inclusion Support Worker

John Holden from Cranbury College who has been supporting us in the Science department this term

We understand the importance of maintaining a stable and supportive environment for our students and we are actively working on plans to recruit qualified individuals to fill these roles. Rest assured we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for both the departing staff and our students.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest team members or those in new roles from January:

Hayley Ward - Office Manager

Hannah Wilson - Exams Officer (alongside Admin Officer)

Hayley Millward - Support Team Leader for Interventions & Therapies

Their passion for education and commitment to our schools mission, make them valuable additions to the Hamilton School Team, we look forward to introducing them to you and your children in the coming weeks. We appreciate your understanding during this period of change and assure you we are dedicated to providing the best possible learning environment for your child.



Support and Information

Information of local services and events that may be of help or interest

Places Kids Eat Free in School Half Terms & Holidays 2023:

<https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free>

Christmas Family Activities:

[Reading Directory](#) | [Activities in Reading over the Christmas Holidays](#)

Early Help:

<https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/early-help/>

Reading Food Banks:

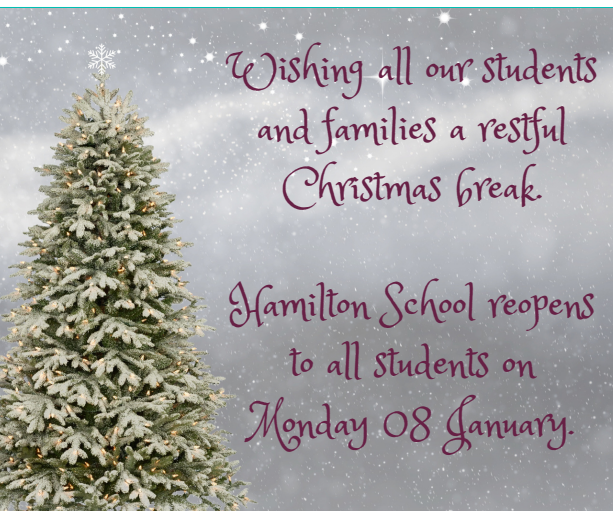
<https://readifood.org.uk/>

Winter Clothing

We are embracing all weathers in our Forest School! With that in mind, please could you send you child to school with a spare set of clothing that you don't mind getting muddy.

It would also be very helpful if your child could bring a waterproof coat each day and an old pair of shoes or wellies as we do venture out in all weathers.

If you have any spare wellies that you would be happy to donate, please bring them to the school office or send them in with your child.



*Wishing all our students
and families a restful
Christmas break.*

*Hamilton School reopens
to all students on
Monday 08 January.*

Dates for Next Half Term

21 December - 07 January	Christmas Holiday
30 January - 2 February	Mock Exams Week - Year 11
08 February	Reward Trip (selected students)
10 - 18 February	Half Term Holiday

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Class Timetables: [Timetables](#)

Letters for Parents: [Letters](#)

Maiden Erlegh Trust Vacancies: [Vacancies](#)

About Hamilton School: [About Us](#)

We would love to hear your views on Hamilton School. Please **click below** to highlight anything you feel our school has done particularly well recently, or areas you feel we need to improve, as well as a chance to nominate a member of staff you feel has exceeded your expectations. Click on the links below to submit your feedback:

