

HILLCREST SCHOOL

'GETTING IT RIGHT' AT HILLCREST SCHOOL

- Hillcrest is a culturally diverse community of girls' aged 11 to 18 with a mixed Sixth Form Centre situated on the south west edge of Birmingham. In September 2011 Hillcrest became a 'converter' Academy as an Ofsted 'outstanding' school. The achievement of students has been recognised by the Minister of State for Schools as our results show that Hillcrest is amongst the 100 top performing schools based on sustained improvement in each year from 2007 to 2010. Maths and Computing Specialist Status gives students access to the very latest technology and new and innovative ways of learning. The school has gained many national awards including the International School Award, Arts Mark Gold Award, Basic Skills Quality Mark and Healthy Schools Award.

'Getting it Right' An initiative which supports all members of the community in achieving their full potential.

'Getting it Right' is a phrase frequently heard at Hillcrest. Not only in relation to being graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and becoming a National Support School but also as the name of the reward system that underpins students' social and academic achievement. Our success story has been based on the solid foundations of the highly successful and innovative 'Getting It Right'

behaviour and rewards system introduced in 2004 which is based on choices, actions and consequences. Students are given a point at the start of every lesson and the aim is to keep each point. Students receive a 'Getting it Right' percentage score for every half term and the target is to achieve at least 90%. Certificates are presented in Assemblies and personalised letters are also posted home to parents six times a year. The Getting It Right school average for 2010-2011 was a remarkable 97% with many students achieving 100% for the year.

At our annual awards celebrations students who have been successful in achieving 90+% points for the whole year become Hillcrest Stars and receive their 'Getting It Right' badge and certificate in front of parents, carers, governors and special guests. Students with 100% are also presented with a Star Trophy.

The reward system also allows students to aspire to become a Hillcrest 'Superstar'. These are students who in addition to achieving their 'Getting It Right' badge have also gained Community Certificates and a hundred Merits for their work. This is the highest level of award and to celebrate this achievement students are presented with a Headteachers' Tie and their name is displayed on a Roll of Honour. Students who achieve the award for a second time receive a glass trophy, and for subsequent years a medal, a trophy and the ultimate Headteachers' Cup.





‘Getting it Right’ not only allows Hillcrest to celebrate the successes of the school community but also identifies at an early stage where things may not be going as well as expected. The data collected and the reasons why points have been lost, enables identification of patterns and trends and most importantly targeted intervention programmes to be put in place for individual students. Parents are also able to access this information on the VLE.

The ‘Getting It Right’ system has been recognised with a Leading Aspect Award and also by OFSTED who stated that ‘The ‘Getting It Right’ behaviour policy is outstanding in the way that it motivates and rewards students.’

On our journey to ‘outstanding’ alongside ‘Getting It Right’, 2005 saw the development of our Virtual Learning Environment which featured at the BETT Show in London and has enabled students to access personalised learning programmes and communications any time, any where.

Embracing active approaches to learning through the TEEP programme has further engaged students in a curriculum where experiences are stimulating and relevant to real life. Personal Learning and Thinking Skills are a common thread in learning programmes and are explored in whole day learning activities at key times throughout the school year. The *lingua@hillcrest* centre is a hub for best practice in the teaching of languages. Students from around the country travel to Hillcrest where they take part in target language experiences that include shopping in the *lingua* village street and solving a murder mystery.

Our active Student Council, ensures that student ‘voice’ is heard, and that together the School Community are truly ‘Getting It Right’ to ensure that every young person at Hillcrest achieves their potential both academically and socially.



Lynda Roan Headteacher

Hillcrest School A Specialist Maths & Computing College and Sixth Form Centre

For more information visit:
www.hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

