



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of the festive period marked the closing of our assessment window this week. I want to thank all of my teaching and support staff for ensuring that all students were very well prepared for their exams. Their committed rapid turn-around in marking will allow them to steer our student's future learning experiences with even more accuracy and help guide our conversations with you during our Academic Review Events. These two important events will take place on the evening of Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 4:30pm to 7pm and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 9am until 1pm. No appointments are necessary so please select a time that suits you. To support an enjoyable and productive experience, please note that the busiest times during the last of these events was observed during the Academic Review Evening at around 5pm. Please also note that school is only open on Friday for parents and students attending for their review meetings.

Our sports men and women in years 7 and 8 did us all proud this week with fantastic games of rugby against Beaufort Academy. The year 8 boys played at home against a strong opposition and despite coming second I was able to watch some serious talent in the first half when I stole a few moments from a busy day to support our boys in blue. Undeterred by the larger Beaufort players, our boys tackled incredibly hard and looked strong in the breakdown often recycling the ball with great efficiency. Captained superbly by Joel Phillips they all played their hearts out in very wet conditions and, with crunching tackles from Natt Webb, two great tries from our extremely quick Oliver Park-Barnard and Arik Kura, left the pitches with their heads held very high.

Our year 7 team remain undefeated and returned to school on Wednesday looking extremely proud of their achievements in Roll Call. Great tries from Savva Vasiliou, Bartosz Kura and Gregory Gjika and a stand out performance from Jessie Randall secured a comfortable win. I look forward to watching these talented boys and girls play in the New Year.

It was an absolute pleasure to join our catering team on Wednesday to help them serve the first of our "Festive Wednesday" Christmas dinners. Roast turkey, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, lovely vegetables covered in wonderful gravy was enjoyed by record numbers of students eating in our canteen. It was great to see so many students enjoying a hearty meal and getting into the festive spirit as they pulled their complementary crackers with their friends and teachers. I must admit that I had absolutely nothing to do with the skilful element of actually cooking the masterpiece but I did receive good feedback on my swift serving of the desert options of mince pies with custard, strawberries and marshmallows and fruit trifle. I want to thank Kirsty, Lisa, Debs and Jody for the most memorable school dinner that I have experienced to date, a real culinary triumph that I know will be extremely popular every Wednesday up until the Christmas break.

We welcomed Sarah Tufnell, Headteacher of Barnwood Park School, to Henley Bank High School on Wednesday and it was a real honour to show her our Roll Call, Tutor Time Reading Program and engaging, disruption-free classrooms. I met Sarah at G15 during my first week as a Headteacher and ever since she has been a fantastic source of advice and support and has always been an advocate of our wonderful school. I look forward to visiting her at Barnwood Park next week.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash



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