



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 18th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Early Monday morning delivered a confusing surprise when I saw the hedge being removed to make way for an access route to the field opposite our school. You may well have seen the construction site that has suddenly appeared opposite our school entrance giving access to the field surrounding the dog kennels. We were given no information or notice of the activity so I apologise on their behalf for the lack of prior warning received that would have helped many plan their routes to and from school differently. I can confirm that the site is going to hold a series of sports facilities, a development taking place as a mitigation, for the houses that will be constructed on the fields surrounding the dog kennels and Brockworth Rugby Club. Since Monday numerous large vehicles have been arriving throughout the day and at times the road has become busier than usual. In order to support both student safety and our new neighbours and their work I request parents and carers you not park on the road outside the school where the keep clear signs are marked and instead, please pull over further up the road toward the rugby club. We are in consultation with the construction firm and will keep you updated as and when we have more information.

Our Year 11 Health and Social Care students completed their Pre Public Examination this week in this subject and first feedback from Miss Bick is a positive. As per usual, the students conducted themselves in a very professional manner with multiple compliments being received from the invigilators who supported the exam.

It was great to watch the Year 7 football team play Barnwood Park on Wednesday and despite taking a loss our boys played really well. They showed pure sportsmanship throughout the match with repeated flashes of brilliant play and constant support of each other throughout. Scored for Henley Bank taking the tally of matches won to 1-1. Ours in rugby and theirs in football. Whatever the score I am always humbled when watching our children get stuck into extracurricular activities that helps them to make firm friendships, develop `grit` and both team and leadership skills. Thank you to those parents and carers who were there to support them in the cold weather.

Our very own CEO, Mr Will Smith, donned his PE kit this week to deliver a Hockey Master Class to students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Ex semi-professional player, Mr Smith, commented on just how incredibly polite and talented our student are and was noticeably moved by how supportive they were toward each other as they learned how to play hockey, for some being the first time they had held a hockey stick.

They say that singing, even for those who struggle to hold a G sharp, is one of the best ways to release dopamine and give us that natural feel good glow. Led by Mrs Benfield, with Mr Brookland on the piano, it was incredibly powerful to watch and listen to our entire Year 7 cohort practice the first of their songs "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" in The Mill this week. With the upcoming Six Nations Rugby tournament approaching, the National Anthems have formed the focus for our first suite of songs. The enjoyment in the room was palpable and I look forward greatly to watching this progress throughout the years.

Today The Mill was packed with students playing board games some of which were classics from my childhood. It has been a while since I saw Hotel, Go for Broke and Boggle. It continues to fill me with joy, the positive environment of conversation and play that has been created by simply removing mobile phones from our community. If anybody has any old board games in full working order that are gathering dust we would be very grateful to receive them to add to our growing collection of games that our children enjoy in the morning before school, at lunch and after school. Please pass them to Carol on reception in receipt of our huge appreciation.

I wish you all a great weekend. Do take care on icy roads that may be forecast this weekend and next week.

Kind regards

Mr B. Nash