



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great week at Henley Bank High School with a dusting of snow in the middle to add a little post-Christmas nostalgia to events; a warning perhaps of colder temperatures to come in the next couple of weeks? I wish all those mums, dads and carers who work outdoors, the very best as I know only too well, from working at my parent's greengrocers for years in a previous life, just how cold finger tips can get in such weather.

With the next Year 11 Pre Public Examinations starting in March, the final dress rehearsal before the final GCSE examinations commence in May, it was a pleasure to welcome Mike Stratford, head of sixth form at Bournside to Henley Bank High School this week. He delivered a polished and really informative presentation about life in their post-16 World which added a boost of focus to a number of our GCSE students. It has been great chatting with year 11 students about their experiences of Open Evenings at various Colleges and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Schools that they have attended with friends, parents and carers over the past few weeks. We appear to have a growing trend in students raising their aspirations to another level, throwing their hats into the ring of a number of the well-established and high performing local establishments. The Headteachers of these schools have been hugely complimentary about our Year 11 students at last week's G15 meeting. Not all students know what they want to be 'when they grow up', I still don't think I do, yet such visits certainly add fire to their bellies and boosts self-confidence and grit. We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 parents and carers to Henley Bank High School on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February for what will be possibly the most important gathering of their educational careers to date.

This week our year 7 and 8 students were mesmerized by the wonder of science that is Tim Harrison from Bristol University. The children were completely gripped by his entertaining delivery of the science hidden within the gasses that make up our atmosphere. For most, if not all students, it was no doubt their first experience being up close and personal with the chemistry hidden inside gasses such as Hydrogen and Helium and the magical chemical properties of liquid Nitrogen, at a staggering -200°C. Full of fizzes, bangs and whizzes, Tim's delivery was a brilliant combination of high level teaching and humour which captured the imaginations of staff and students alike. I have absolutely no doubt that the parents of our Year 7 and 8 students have heard the stories retold around the breakfast and dinner tables throughout the week. We look forward to inviting our local primary schools to Henley Bank High School in the next few weeks to watch Tim in action.

Sport is thriving at Henley Bank High School and our Year 7 students performed brilliantly on the Netball courts this week. Great performances from Jessie Randall and Isabella Randall helped us secure a 15-2 overall win against Severn Vale School. Thank you to our brilliant PE staff for organising such brilliant extracurricular opportunities for our students. The impact of such experiences is having a wonderfully positive impact on all of the students in so many ways.

Following in the footsteps of our Year 7 students last week our Year 8 students filled The Mill with song in their first choir session with Mrs Benfield and Mrs Breeden. Like a love for reading, singing is fast becoming another fashion at our school and I am super excited by the potential that the children have displayed in such a short space of time. Is a parent's and carer's choir on the horizon? That would surely be a first!

On that 'note', I wish you all a wonderful weekend. Take care if the cold snap arrives early.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash