



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an awesome week it has been at Henley Bank High School, action packed and positive as always.

Starting with our Year 11 Parent Information Evening on Monday where we had the pleasure of welcoming parents and carers to pack out The Mill so that we could share with them our strategy for the 17 days leading up to the March Pre Public Examinations and the 45 days leading up to the first of the GCSE examinations in May. In total the teaching and support staff are offering over 15 different types of support to ensure that we have left no stone unturned in our mission to give our students the best possible chance of success. With disruption-free, well-resourced and engaging lessons forming the mainsail of the charge, the rigging of success comes in the form of a committed and effective home-revision strategy with students taking full ownership of the success that they wish to achieve in the future. With increasing numbers attending our Working Lunches and Champion`s Hour to exploit every opportunity to commit more knowledge, understanding and skills to their working memories, the levels of engagement and focus from our Year 11s at this critical time is unrivalled. There will be no greater feeling than opening their envelopes on GCSE Results Day on 22nd August 2019 to receive a brace of exemplary qualifications that empowers them to take on the world; some I have no doubt will try and take over it - aspiration after all is the source of all achievement. Keep up the good work Year 11!

On Wednesday we hosted a first for Greenshaw Learning Trust. Following what could have been England`s best performance for years during this Six Nations Rugby Championship it was fantastic to watch over 150 rugby players from Henley Bank High School, Yate Academy and Five Acres across years 7 to 9 spring into action to compete in the first GLT Rugby Championship. Brilliantly organised by our talented Head of PE, Sarah Cuke, and Tom Powell, Head of Year 7 and 8, and a huge helping hand from players of Brockworth Rugby Football Club, the event was a tremendous success in allowing students to showcase some serious talent and further develop both their teamwork and leadership skills. As an ex-National League rugby player myself it was marvellous to imagine the Trust`s capability of combining talent from each school in each year group to potentially create the GLT Barbarians, a team that I feel could take on the schools of the Nation and win. The beauty of being in such a close-knit trust of schools offers the consideration of so many opportunities for both staff and students alike.

Last week we welcomed Professor Tim Harrison and Doctor Johnny of Bristol University to Henley Bank High School when they wowed our students with their incredibly entertaining show based around the chemistry of the gasses in the Earth`s atmosphere. The excitement that they added to dinnertime and breakfast time conversations in their homes since spurred us to invite them back to Henley Bank High School so that the many younger siblings of our students in our local primary schools could share in the fun and wonder that the science duo so brilliantly deliver. Mrs Benfield rallied the troops and yesterday we filled The Mill with over 100 primary school students from Birdlip, Castlehill and Upton St. Leonards Primary Schools. It was great to hear so much positive feedback from parents, carers and some of the students themselves at our Year 8 Options Evening yesterday night.

Year 8 Options evening, planned and delivered by Tom Powell was a huge success. Our Conference Area was packed with parents, carers and students in an atmosphere of thriving discussion as they picked the experienced brains of our talented teaching staff to help guide them in their selection of their 3 option subjects. The students appeared so focused and committed in their gathering of information which will essentially fuel the most important decision in their educational careers to date. I want to thank my staff for all of their support throughout the evening.

I`d like to finish with a shout out to our students Megan Bishop, Chloe Dipple, Tom Biles and Tom Wannell who will take part in the Scouting Cotswold Marathon this weekend when their grit, determination and physical fitness will be tested over distances of up to 30 miles. Dig deep guys and just keep going is all the advice I can offer from experience.

I`m hoping that England`s tour de force continues this weekend against France and wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash