



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 1st March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a weekend of incredible rugby it was last weekend. Despite a loss to Wales it was great to see such brilliant competition from start to finish. My Scottish wife was a little less sympathetic than I had imagined she would have been so our house makes for a tense location for the Calcutta Cup on 16th March. Wish me luck!

Its been another great week from start to finish at Henley Bank High School this week. Monday was dedicated solely to our year 11 GCSE students to give them full opportunity to get ahead of their studies with particular focus being given to the coursework element of the Sports Studies qualification and for our Triple Science students, a laser like approach to chemistry and physics. `Laser Meetings` that I have held with every teacher of year 11 students over the last three weeks have given me great insight into the acute awareness that our teachers have of the gaps specific to the knowledge and skills of individual students. Such clinical approaches to lesson planning will ensure that our moto "Every Second of Every Minute of Every Lesson Counts" is in full force as our year 11 students prepare for GCSE success. The final dress rehearsal will commence with the first of their Pre-Public Examinations next Tuesday 5th March. Their work ethic is proving to be quite simply staggering with many of our Year 11 students taking advantage of support that was offered throughout the half term break by Mr Foran, Mrs Cuke, Mrs Lane and myself. The Working Lunch is also proving to be a real hit with dedicated students and numbers are increasing daily.

We welcomed back Head of Sixth Form at Cheltenham Bournside School, Mike Stratford, to Henley Bank this week to complete the interviews for our Year 11 students who have applied for places there next September. Following a very polished presentation to our students which echoed the high standards and expectations that we have, record numbers of students have applied for high level qualifications at this local school. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of the interviews in the near future.

On Wednesday our year 9 and 10 Hospitality and Catering students visited Cheltenham College to take part in an interactive session organised by The Chef's Forum. The Chef's Forum are a group of top chefs from across the south of the UK who have joined forces with local catering colleges to support the next generation of young chefs. Among many skills our students were taught how to fillet a steak of venison. Kuba Winkowski, the National Chef of the Year 2019, made a delicious dish of venison and fried dumplings with our very own Courtney Simpson, Year 10, and Troy Childs, Year 9, supporting him in the professional kitchen. The session ended with a chocolate eclair competition with two students from each of the 5 schools present taking part. Congratulations go to Liberty Pitt and Alex Beardsell, both in Year 9, who came second and third respectively. I'd like to thank Mrs Wardrop for making this special opportunity available to our students, the experience of which will no doubt inspire our students to practice what they have learned today at home and in school. Apparently, our students did us all proud as staff of other schools and the event organisers commented frequently on just how incredible their behaviour and manners were. Well done all!

I feel a little out of kilter with no International rugby to watch this weekend but if this great spell of warm weather continues to bless us I'm sure it will be smiles all round regardless.

Have a great weekend

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash