



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The receipt of correspondence from members of our local and wider community following their experiences of interacting with our staff and students is now a daily event and the reading of such communication is a wonderful way to start a day. This week has been no different. Praise has flooded in from the British Legion for our hosting of the G15 Remembrance Day Flag event, from Izzy Ambrose the Headteacher at Yate Academy, from Nick Cox, Deputy Headteacher at Rendcomb College and a huge number of prospective parents and their children wanting to join the Henley Bank High School family in September 2019. A massive shout of appreciation must be given to our fantastic receptionist Carol Webb and my PA, Faye Cutler, who have led the management of communications between the school and parents and carers and ensured that the vast number of pre-arranged and spontaneous tours that have been taking place daily for the past few weeks have ran incredibly smoothly. All visitors have been overwhelmed by the warmth of welcome, efficiency of communication and depth of support received from our dynamic duo. It has truly been a remarkable few weeks for the little school with a huge heart and our numbers for September are looking incredibly positive.

Our Year 11 students have been ploughing through their Pre-Public Examinations with gusto this week and our staff have been hungry to get papers marked to reveal the impact of our students' hard work and dedication to lives full of choice and control. Reports from staff about papers already marked have been extremely positive and I can echo the same message from the Mathematics paper that I have marked for my own class. Next week is the last week of PPEs so we wish our students the very best success for the remaining exams. The results will be given to Year 11 students the week after the exams have finished in a ceremony not too dissimilar to that which they will experience on the actual results day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August.

Thirteen Henley Bank High School students from Year 9 and 10 were lucky enough to meet real-life Polar explorer and motivational speaker, Ben Saunders at Yate Academy. This was a joint experience shared between the Greenshaw Learning Trust schools of the South West region, comprising students from Henley Bank High School, Yate Academy, Five Acres and Henbury School. Our students were completely captivated by his accomplishments which include skiing solo to both the North and South Poles, covering an astonishing 4350 miles in such extreme conditions. Ben's levels of resilience, sheer determination and commitment to achieve his dreams and aspirations, where many in the past had failed clearly inspired all those that listened to him. They kept Ben on his toes with some brilliant questions. I'd like to thank Mr Brookland for giving our students the opportunity to meet such an inspirational and personable man.

Our football team went head to head with Churchdown this week and despite coming second Mr Powell reported that it was a well fought game with end to end excitement throughout. I'm really looking forward to hearing the results from the sporting battles played next week.

To finish, I have to write about our Year 7 Choir that I have just experienced practicing songs from the hit musical The Greatest Showman. Formed just three weeks ago with Mrs Benfield, Mr Brookland and Mr Powell it was incredible to hear them singing from the bottom of their lungs during a tour with visitors. The smiles on the faces of the parents I was walking with were a sight that I will remember for years and an incredibly positive note to end another great week at Henley Bank High School.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash