



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I managed to catch a sneak preview of Henley Bank High School's first drama production "Some Treasure Island" this week and was bowled over by the talent that I saw on our stage and in those students supporting the set design, lighting and sound. Lead by Mrs Benfield, the melodramatic recreation of Stevenson's classic novel promises to have all that watch it in fits of laughter when it is performed to you in the last week of this academic year in July. I will communicate the finer details of the performance closer to the time but just felt the need to get it on your radars considering the goose bumps the students have delivered this week in just a fraction of time.

I also happened to walk into the Year 7 choir practice midweek which was yet another incredible display of student confidence, team work and happiness. Belting out A Million Dreams from the hit musical, The Greatest Showman, I saw students who started the year as quite shy and possibly a little retiring singing at the top of their lungs, eyes closed, heads up in the front row! Incredible how singing and performing can add confidence and a real sense of collegiality so quickly.

We welcomed Richard McCann back to Henley Bank High School on Wednesday to deliver his second session to our Year 11 students. Building on the seed of inspiration that was sowed to all students during his visit in September 2018, his energy, humour and enthusiasm seemed a fitting dose of support as our Year 11's finished their Pre-Public Examinations and ready themselves for their GCSEs that commence after Easter. He shared his skills of positive mindset development and memory enhancement to illustrate powerfully that success is simply the result of the repetition of simple skills over time. Our Year 11 students are working incredibly hard at present and their thirst for success is a trait which is fed at lunchtimes in the Working lunch that we offer every day. Over 70% of our students attend this additional support provision, requested by students and parents, every day which in itself is a powerful indicator of the culture of commitment that our students have fostered. Its great to start every week in roll call celebrating their dedication as a few lucky ones receive the Amazon vouchers that we raffle off to those who attend.

In roll call yesterday I gave thanks to all of the students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 for their unconscious support of our Year 11 students at this crucial time of their educational careers. Without knowing it, their impeccable behaviour around the school day in and day out indirectly supports the hard work being invested by our Year 11 students and allows our teachers to focus their time on the planning and delivery of brilliant lessons for all. There really is a feeling of belonging and pride in our Sports Hall that I haven't felt anywhere before.

The results from our Year 11s PPEs were published this week which have boosted the energy and confidence in the building to record levels. The shear support from teachers, students, parents and carers shown every day without fail have resulted in the achievement of the school's highest results in history. These are a great measure of where the school will feature in comparison to others in the county and the country in August and if my calculations serve me correctly, we are set to be one of the most improved schools Nationally. What a journey this is turning out to be. It has certainly surpassed any expectations that I ever had.

Thank you for the opportunity. Thank you for the experience. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your children.

Have a lovey Easter with friends and family and to our Year 11 students, keeping fighting the good fight, it will all be worth it in the end.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash