



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today marks the end of a great first week back for our students and staff after a well-deserved break. I hope sincerely that everybody in the Henley Bank High School community found time to rest and recuperate in the company of friends and family.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that our students returned looking just as smart as they left us at the end of last half term. It was a delight to see the integrity of our students filling our sports hall for morning roll call throughout the week. Such is the power of pristine presentation, I had four unannounced visits from community members and prospective parents who's curiosity in "the new local school" had been conjured by seeing our students dressed so smartly on their way to and from school. They really are a credit to us all.

Our morning roll call never fails to prove how well equipped and prepared for learning our students are. Following the rapid disintegration of our first complimentary pencil cases, which turned quickly into unsightly and dysfunctional "pencil cradles", I have issued every student in the school with a new, more robust pencil case that will hopefully see them through to the end of this academic year. This will ensure that we maintain the highest standards of learning readiness.

Homework was raised as point of interest during my recent "Meet the Head" evening. Homework is a critically important part of learning and a major contributor to academic success. Holistically, the routine of the setting and timely completion of high quality home-learning tasks helps our students develop learning independence, and supports them in taking responsibility for their own success. Such skills and mature work ethic will support their progression throughout their educational careers and beyond into the work place in later life, skills that are highly sought by future employers. We are currently auditing our previous homework policy and will shortly be initiating our new strategy that will ensure that homework is a purposeful and impactful compliment to the learning taking place in our classrooms. Miss Bradbury, my Deputy Head leading on all aspect of Teaching and Learning in the school, will be in touch with these details.

On Thursday our year 9 students had the pleasure of watching a team of professional performers from the 'Is it Worth It' group. This was a really engaging and interactive show that succeeded in delivering to our students the invaluable lessons associated with online safety. It was a hard-hitting message that further raised the profile of our collaborative responsibility to ensure that our children are well educated with respect to the posting of content on social media and personal messages. Our students did us all proud and showed real maturity throughout the performance. The company delivering the show, who are nearing the end of the national school tour, commented that our students were the best behaved and most engaged that they had encountered on their tour so far.

We are making massive strides on our own journey to success as a new school and are well ahead of schedule to becoming the school of choice in the community. Lessons are disruption free, students are supremely presented, impeccably polite and well mannered. To ensure that their learning environment is as warm and welcoming as they are I have instructed a team to start "freshening up" our school. Work has already commenced internally and our new signage plan is well under way. This will ensure that the school as a whole is just as well presented as our students.

Finally, I wish you all a fantastic weekend and for the rugby fans amongst us, I wish your teams the very best of luck for this weekend's Six Nations competition.

Yours sincerely

Mr B. Nash  
Head of School