



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

9th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

It is great to be writing to you all after “The Beast from the East” unleashed its predicted maximum icy power that rendered our school closed for a day and a half. I am well aware of the complications and resulting frustrations that such days can cause to many parents and carers and I fully appreciate all of the correspondence that I have received in support of my decision. With a number of our staff and students coming from areas that were affected greatly by the snow it would have been unsafe to open for business as usual.

It was another show of fantastic character by our students last Thursday as they arrived on time in the chilly weather without even a groan of fuss. They never fail to impress us. We opened additional indoor warm spaces for them at break time to keep them out of the icy wind and I rewarded their resilience with a complimentary hot chocolate, bursting with marshmallows and whipped cream. It was an entertaining experience for the students as they waited politely for their treat watching my staff and I pour hot chocolate and whipped cream into cups in a circulating icy gale in the quad.

Last week marked the start of our year 11 mock exam session, the “final dress rehearsal” before the main event later this year. The data produced by these assessments will allow our staff to plan lessons with laser like accuracy ensuring that, between now and the final exams, learning is ultra-bespoke, focusing on the critical areas for improvement. Period 6 continues to go from strength to strength as our year 11 students continue to raise their game, taking responsibility for their own GCSE outcomes, adopting a mature work ethic that will further support their success well past the final exam.

Our site team have had a busy week preparing our site for a much needed freshen up and work is well under way in the branding of Henley Bank High School. Whilst it is not the beauty of the stadium or arena that creates champions, I am delighted that the stage for our champions is receiving a little tender loving care.

It has been a pleasure delivering tours to prospective parents for the past couple of weeks. They have certainly taken advantage of my offer for unannounced ‘access all areas’ tours that have allowed us to give them such a positive experience of what life is like every day at Henley Bank High School. Their responses have been overwhelming positive with a number leaving in complete shock at how far we have come in such a short space of time. They say a leopard can’t change its spots and I guess that is correct; we’ve focused on changing the animal altogether and designing our own spots and stripes!

I would like to extend this invite to you so please do not hesitate to turn up and have a look for yourselves at the changes that have taken place so far.

Finally, as communicated earlier this week we will be hosting our Academic Review Evening from 4pm until 6:30pm on Wednesday 28th March and our Academic Review Day on Thursday 29th March between 9am and 1pm. There will be no lessons taking place on Thursday 29th March therefore students will only need to attend with parents if this is the chosen session for their academic review. Appointments will not be required for these sessions and all teachers will be available on both dates to discuss specifically the current academic performance and the actions required to facilitate success in each subject. For any questions about these events please call us on 01452 863372.

I wish you all a great weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr B. Nash
Head of School