



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a weekend of sport! I must admit that I am not a cricket fan, well that was until I watched England play `The Black Caps` of New Zealand on Sunday. I think there are few events in sport that have kept me as gripped as the Super-Over that lead England to their victory. Rated as, "The best game in the history of cricket", by England batsman Ben Stokes, it appeared I picked the right time to get absorbed into the game that I once held responsible for me starting to bite my nails when I was at school.

On Monday we welcomed back 28 of our students who travelled to Italy last Tuesday. The 4 day excursion to Rome led by Mr Brookland, Miss Rawlings and Mr Barker allowed the student and staff alike to absorb the wonders that make up this remarkable city. All were amazed by the glorious architecture and famous sights such as the Sistine Chapel, The Roman Forum, the Trevi Fountain, St. Peter`s Basilica and of course the gladiatorial battleground; The Colosseum. Lapping up the Italian culture in restaurants, parks, museums and the odd gelateria to buy ice cream to keep cool in the sweltering city heat our students returned home buzzing about memories that will last their lifetimes. Our staff were incredibly complimentary about how well behaved every student was and how well they represented themselves, our school and you at home.

Some arrived back to school and bounced straight back out again with Miss Rawlings and Mrs Cuke to attended The Vitality Netball World Cup 2019 that is taking place in Liverpool until 21<sup>st</sup> July. They were able to learn from the talents representing countries such as Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Malawi, Austria, Barbados, England and South Africa. After an early start on the Monday they returned to share their stories with their friends on Tuesday. Thank you to Mrs Cuke and Miss Rawlings for organising the event.

At Henley Bank High School we believe that character adds `punch` to academia and on Wednesday evening we were treated to a talent bonanza as our Performing Arts students took to the stage to perform `Some Treasure Island`. This hilarious adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson`s classic had the audience howling with laughter from the opening lines until the final bow. My headship has been a journey of proud firsts and this evening will forever be etched in my memory. Thank you to Mrs and Mr Benfield and Mr Brookland and of course to all of the incredible students who took part. Thank you also to the parents, carers and friends who came to support.

Sports Day this week was an absolute success and saw every child compete in sports from rounders, basketball, swimming, tennis and the finals of the athletics events through to the whole-school 5km Race for Life that brought this amazing academic year to an end. It was the best Sports day that I have ever had the privilege of attending mainly due to the camaraderie that exists between our students and staff, a deep level of pure respect, aspiration and support, the signature of our culture at Henley Bank High School, the feeling that all who visit get struck by immediately. I would like to extend my thanks to all of our staff who got stuck into the events, the students who behaved impeccably and competed so brilliantly and to Mr Foran who pushed me round the track in a wheelbarrow and ensured that we won the Cheese Rolling event!

I want to end this week`s letter, the last for a few weeks, to thank you all for your support for what has been a phenomenal 18 months as a headteacher working with your children and our staff. I cannot begin to explain how challenging it has been to be away from my wife and little boy and at times the guilt I feel is unbearable. That is until I park in my pretentious parking space every morning and see the staff and the children that we serve. My guilt quickly fades into pride at the purpose this journey gives to my life and the pride that Jack will hopefully feel when he is old enough to understand why I am not there all the time. Your children make it worth it. Thank you for them.

Have a wonderful time with friends and family over the summer and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Kind regards,

Mr B Nash