



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is an absolute pleasure to write my first Head's letter to you this week after such an exciting few weeks and a particularly brilliant first week back at school. I'm pretty sure that my wife was bored of my pacing and restlessness just one week into the break. I must admit it was amazing to spend such quality time with family and friends after such a busy and fantastic academic year an important reminder that family time is precious, recharging, grounding and essential to the maintenance of good mental health. I hope that you and your families shared equally great moments and created lasting memories over the summer. I look forward to hearing individual stories of fun times had from children over the next few weeks.

In 2018 we set out to transform this school into one that all staff could be proud of, where students excelled academically and developed empowering personal character and one that parents, carers, grandparents, friends and the community could promote with gusto. I am delighted to share with you again that Henley Bank High School is now in the top 15% of schools nationally based on progress made by its students and since 2018, our talented teaching staff and our routines for success have combined to add one and half grades to every student in every subject at GCSE. This may make us the most improved school in the county this year and maybe even make us challengers for the most improved school in the country, either way we are proud, delighted and eternally grateful for your support. It really is a team effort.

On Monday Henley Bank High School hosted the annual Greenshaw Learning Trust INSET Day which saw 421 professionals, from the South West Trust secondary schools come together to put the finishing touches to our world-class curriculum. Collaboration of such quality will ensure that the collective wisdom, expertise and experience of some of the country's best teachers combines to create exceptional learning experiences for all of our students in both key stages. Seriously exciting times ahead. It also gave headteachers from each of the schools to share their individual school's successes. It is clearly evident that our Trust has something extremely special and unique as our schools climb the league tables of academic performance. Watch this space!

Our new year 11 cohort stepped into big shoes on Wednesday as their final GCSE year commenced. It was business as normal straight from the very first bell with quality Mathematics lessons welcoming them to the charge. It was great to address them all in our welcome back assembly which gave us the opportunity to set the sail for a successful year.

Wednesday was also the day we welcomed our new youngest recruits to the family as our Year 7 students arrived to Roll Call with Year 11. The "Sea of Seven", as we have named them, arrived incredibly well dressed with smiles and a zest to "get stuck in", as one confidently told me. They have faced their new challenge of settling into 'big school' so positively and the, "I'm lost" rate, rapidly decreased throughout the week as staff and other students stepped in to steer them on the right path.

On Thursday the whole school population gathered in Roll Call, a sight and feeling that will never fail to impress and move me. Our students looked positive, happy and ready to learn.

It was also the first day at school for 11 new staff that we welcomed to our teaching and support team this Monday. From some of the world's finest universities these talented individuals will add even further depth and breadth to the next chapter of our story. They have settled in remarkably well and it was an absolute pleasure to walk the corridors this week and observe our outstanding Tutor Time Reading Programme commence and of course all of our classrooms offering disruption-free learning environments to our students and staff.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend wherever it takes you.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash