



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Stormy weather did not hinder progress at Henley Bank High School this week and whilst on many occasions it may have been raining outside, inside the classrooms and corridors, the staff and students have been glowing warmly with achievement.

At Henley Bank High School, we have high aspirations for our students in everything that they do and as such lesson content across all subjects is pitched high to offer high challenge and high impact learning opportunities. Such high standards and expectations were showcased brilliantly in Ms Williams Year 11 Hospitality and Catering class this week where students were expertly filleting whole Sea Bream. Supported additionally by Mrs Bishop, the students were thrown well out of their comfort zone as they had to demonstrate incredibly high-level knife skills and food knowledge. About half an hour after watching this, the corridors quickly filled with the smell of pan-fried Sea Bream fillet being cooked in garlic and lemon butter which the budding Michelin Star chefs had the pleasure of tasting before evaluating their work. Ms Williams` flare for cooking is ensuring that students across all year groups are now getting the opportunity to really stretch their culinary abilities and introduce their pallets to a huge range of exotic flavours. Bon Appetit!

On Monday our Year 10 Geography students visited Blackpool Brook in the beautiful Forest of Dean to investigate the changes in river form as it flows from source to mouth. They were extremely lucky as this was the one day in the week that we hadn't experienced heavy showers and as such all students were able to complete the practical element of their GCSE course. Thank you to Mr Brookland and his team for supporting the students on the trip and ensuring that all returned successful and safely.

On Wednesday we welcomed the Greenshaw Learning Trust Review Challenge and Support Team to Henley Bank High School. The team of six highly experienced and knowledgeable individuals, led by Regional Schools Director, Mr Ben Parnell, spent the whole day exploring classroom activity, observing student social times, meeting with numerous staff members and talking with students across all year groups. This supportive review, the first of three that will take place throughout the year, gave our colleagues the opportunity to experience the daily operation of the school to help us identify areas of major success and also invaluable points for improvement that we can absorb into our School Action Plan for Improvement. The headline of the report received reads;

*There is a feeling that team ethos is incredibly strong at Henley Bank High School. Staff are committed to the school, are working hard and are thriving in their own personal journeys of self-improvement. There is a huge amount that is very strong in the school. The school is being well led. The school is improving every visit. Behaviour in corridors was exceptional, the students are happy, polite, articulate and welcoming.*

I'm going to sign off this week just before heading to The Mill for the Friday Fun lunchtime Karaoke Challenge where I have been told (warned slightly) that Mr Foran and Mr Powell are competing against each other and a number of other students. I cannot comment on Mr Powell`s vocal abilities but have heard his competitor hum a tune or two over a lunchtime Pot Noodle and I do feel that Mr Powell may fair well regardless of his own talent levels. Wish our ears well.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash