



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 29th November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may well know, from previous letters that I have written, that we are working very closely with Rendcomb College, just down the road from us on route to Cirencester. This relationship is proving to be incredibly valuable in terms of support and opportunity exploration. Every Monday, a select group of their students come to Henley Bank High School to support our younger students with their reading and the impact has been quite simply brilliant. Our fantastic Dr Glover and Rendcomb's brilliant Mr Marc Silverthorn, have been busy preparing a bid to win funding for a collaborative project; The Green Car Challenge. This exciting opportunity requires schools to design an electric race car, manufacture that car and then race it in a series of endurance events at race tracks around the UK. For a number of years in many schools across the UK the Green Power Car Challenge has proved to be a hugely successful way of engaging students in the area of Design and; Technology and Engineering. Such is its appeal, it is now even attracting school teams from outside the UK, such as the USA and in Europe. For both schools the 'longevity' of the challenge will bring opportunity. As students learn and develop their own understanding they can re-redesign, refine and manufacture more tailored parts to make the car more competitive. Ultimately it is the longevity of the challenge that will help fuel our sustained efforts to encourage and nurture students to pursue Design & Technology and Engineering related careers.

This week was the first of the two-week Pre-Public Examinations for our Year 11 students. This is the first big test of their commitment to success so far and to emulate the environment of 'the real thing' we have mirrored the order of the examinations that they will sit from April through to July. Our externally sourced invigilators provide our team with a detailed account of each examination to help us improve our practice for our students at every turn. They have commented routinely about how dedicated our students have been so far and also that their behaviour has been exemplary. Their teachers will be busy marking their scripts for each subject over the next three weeks and the information gleaned from this process will be used to inform lesson planning that focusses on 'plugging' any gaps in knowledge and skills that are identified. This ensures that lessons and revision are laser-focussed, extremely efficient and highly effective. The results will be presented to our students during their Results Assembly which again will be a match of the experience that they will have on the official GCSE Results Day on Thursday 20th August 2020.

On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr Stephen Marston, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Gloucestershire to speak with his team about future opportunities and experiences that we may be able to offer our students and theirs. I have never toured around the site in Cheltenham and was incredibly impressed by the facilities they have in their Media and Computing faculties. Professionally equipped recording studios, IT suites with the latest game design and photography software and a newsroom with professional-grade videography and editing equipment were just a few of the resources that the University had to support their students journeys into their careers. We are currently investing an outreach program that will enable our students in all year groups to visit the University and be informed and inspired to support their thinking about future plans. Its never to soon to get focused.

We have all just drank delicious hot chocolate in the quad to welcome the frosty weather in and I wanted to finish by saying a huge "well done" to our Year 8 rugby team who defeated Barnwood Park 6-2 in their rugby fixture this week. The game sounded like a well-contested battle that called upon all players to dig deep with Jamie receiving Player of the Match. Well done gentlemen.

Wishing you all a splendid weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash