



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

16th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a week of firsts at Henley Bank High School this week.

I had the absolute pleasure of meeting the Mayor of Tewkesbury, Mr Harry Turbyfield, and Councillor Ruth Hatton. They were delighted by the sheer amount of positive change that has occurred at the school since their previous visit last year, both commenting on the happiness and good manner of our students. It's great that they have chosen to use our school for their next Mayor Making Ceremony later this year.

All week we have been giving parents tours of the school, and this has resulted in great turnouts for my two "Meet the Head" evenings that I hosted for the parents and students that will be joining us in year 7 in September. In preparation of the evenings I asked Mrs Wardrop and Miss Bishop from our Food Technology and Catering department, to cater for our guests with a spread of simple food and beverages. Being a total novice in the kitchen who finds the preparation of beans on toast a challenge, I was thinking something more akin to the usual buffet of ham sandwiches and pineapple and cheese sticks served alongside a variety of flavours of crisps for our guests. Yet again I was overwhelmed by our student's ability to rise to a challenge as Mrs Wardrop and Miss Bishop gathered their army of incredible young chefs who together created a masterclass of beautifully presented and delicious canapés. Their hospitality skills would rival the Ritz, and it filled me with pride watching them interact so effortlessly with our guests. To all of the students that helped, I thank you dearly. I would also like to extend my thanks to their parents who collected them after the event in the evening. Your support of our journey is gratefully appreciated.

Whilst I do not have the official figures of our next year's intake of exceptional new students, it is with great excitement and pride that I can report that for the first time in 4 years we have an increasing roll of students at this school. Our achievements to date are attracting new parents and students on a daily basis. "Teamwork makes the dream work" as they say and it's great to see that our combined determination for excellence is being recognised.

As you will already know I have invited parents, prospective and existing, to turn up without notice to experience Henley Bank High School for themselves. It was a first for me as to my surprise today, my own parents arrived without notice, to visit our school! I was honoured by the welcome that they received from our students and staff. A fantastic first in my lifetime, let alone the first for Henley Bank High School.

This week marks the end of the year 11 mock exams, the final dress rehearsal, before the main event starting in just a few months' time. To support their management of revision and preparation for success we have opened an Independent Study Area for their exclusive use at break time, lunch and after period 6. Many students have responded with real positivity and it's been great watching the number of students in this area increase over the week. They will certainly be able to say that they gave it their all when they receive their grades in August.

Today I joined the Head Teachers and Principals of other secondary schools in Gloucestershire at this month's G15 meeting. This was a great opportunity to meet with other local school leaders with whom I am keen to develop effective collaboration with in the future. The welcome was warm and the strides that we are making at Henley Bank High School have been clearly noted by all in and beyond our county.

I'm looking forward to another great week next week and in the meantime I wish you all a fantastic weekend with friends and family.

Yours sincerely

Mr B. Nash
Head of School