



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 7th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous week at Henley Bank High School we have enjoyed this week. From the pleasure of welcoming new talent to our already high performing and passionate team to a 'welly wanging' competition today. There aren't many, if any headteachers that can report such a contrast of events or continuum of success!

On Monday we welcomed four new teachers to our team, trainees who will be with us until the summer honing their craft and learning 'the ropes' from our staff and students alike. Again, we have been blessed with a group of eager and sharp individuals who have got stuck in from their first Henley Bank High School bell. Their collective response to their first observation of roll call; "wow...erm...that was...impressive." Yes. Yes, it really is quite something.

Our Year 11's have been in full 'GCSE exam mode' this week as the Business Studies, Hospitality and Catering and Health and Social Care students entered the arena to take their final examinations in their subjects. Our dedicated staff hosted exam warm-up sessions before every exam to ensure that our students were thoroughly prepared for success. I had the pleasure of observing our hugely talented young chefs in action making, among a collection of culinary classics, ice cream from scratch, a stunning Victoria sponge that Mary Berry would have been proud of and a sea bass dish worthy of a Rick Stein menu.

This week set the new record for Working Lunch attendance as over 80% of our Year 11 students took every opportunity to further increase their chances of success in preparation for their Pre-Public Examinations that commence shortly after the half-term break on 9th March. Well done guys, these little positive habits will reap huge rewards eventually.

A huge thank you to Mr Powell Miss Payne, Miss Ebanks and Miss Warner for making sure that our 46 Year 7 students had a great time and made it safely to and from The British Museum this week. After an early start and late return, the children arrived at school this morning full of stories about things they had experienced throughout the trip. The magic of school excursions will never wear thin. I still remember being chased by a huge peacock when I went on a school trip to Twycross Zoo when I was 8 years old!

Miss Murrell took our 8 Year 10 Brilliant Club students to Bath University yesterday for their graduation ceremony. After a challenging course, culminating in the writing of a 2000-word essay on contemporary poetry, it was an absolute honour to hand certificates and praise tokens to Oliver Brinkman, Maizey Cleary, Kobi Green, Lewis Hancock, Korban Hollywell, Oli Park-Barnard, Freya Rhodes and Lani Kirby. All achieved the University standard 2:1 award with Lani receiving the coveted University 1st Class Award. Thank Miss Murrell and well done kids, I doubt you realise just how epic your achievement is. Time will reap its investment for you.

Finally, our Netballers took to the court in what was their most challenging game to date. Losing so closely to Churchdown School but gaining huge recognition for their tenacity and resilience, our ladies did us all proud and Mrs Cuke has been revelling in their performance ever since. Player of the match was awarded to Tabby for her individual contribution to the incredible team effort.

Welly wanging. Time to get serious. If it was a GCSE subject we'd be...well...quite literally wanging I guess! One of the funniest experiences of my career to date was the level of competitiveness as staff took on the students at hurling Ms Williams' wellies across the field! I wonder if at that time, anywhere in the world, another school was taking part in such an event? Only at Henley Bank High School!

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash