



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

29th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Today marks another of firsts for Henley Bank High School. The end of our first full term. And what a brilliant term it has been culminating in our first Academic Review Events, the most attended on record. It was a great to see many of you again and also fantastic to meet for the first time many parents that hadn't managed to attend previous events. The overall feedback for the format of our events were overwhelmingly positive but of course with any new initiative there are always lessons to be learned and improvements to be made. Thank you for all of your kind words of support in passing.

Our dedication to literacy has been a highlight of the term for me and our students. Repeated reports of children saving money to purchase books instead of DVD's or the latest computer game have been really positive to hear. A real shift in modern culture that we feel proud to be part of. The impact on our students' access to learning and assessment will be dramatically improved over time with their continued exposure to high level texts. The reading of such varied styles and stories is allowing the children to identify those that they like, and just importantly those that they do not. Perseverance is a critically important skill that will promote success well beyond our gates.

Our dedication to fun has forged new friendships between students and helped further develop strong working relationships between staff and students. This week we moved our fun to Monday lunchtime which saw me fulfil a lifelong dream as I took the stage as the resident Henley Bank High School bingo caller! As I spoke the words "eyes down, look in" I know that my Grandma Maisie was looking down with pride from the bingo hall in the sky with her dobber in hand smiling through her blue rinse. So much fun and a memory that will last a lifetime. I had no idea that bingo was such a popular game among children. It has become a real social event in our calendar.

It has been an absolute pleasure welcoming Mr. Tippen to our teaching team. His excellence in Science has added real depth to the department and he has proved to be a real hit with students. His ideas and experience are adding real strength to the Henley Bank Teaching and Learning experience.

As previously communicated, for the first time in four years we have an increase in our year 7 intake which is a monumental stride in our journey so far. This has been made possible through the collective efforts invested by my leadership team, our teachers and most of all our wonderful students. We are well on our way to greatness and it is a really exciting time for our new school.

Finally, I wanted to dedicate a portion of my letter to you this week. I know that the journey you have been on as parents and carers before January was an extremely testing one and one that at times may well have tested your commitment to the school. I thank you all most sincerely for your loyalty, your support and your faith in us. As I have hinted before, it's not the beauty of the stadium that creates great individuals and successful teams, instead it is the leadership, quality of coaching, but more importantly it is the fire in the bellies of the fans that show their support through all weathers cheering from the side-lines that is putting Henley Bank firmly on the map, keeping us focussed and driving us towards our vision.

It is an absolute honour to be the Head of your child's school. Our students are an absolute pleasure to work with, a complete credit to you.

Have a fantastic Easter, wherever and with whoever it may be spent.

Kindest regards,

Mr B. Nash
Head of School