



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a fantastic extended weekend last weekend. What a gloriously warm one it was too! The taste of an epic summer to come? Fingers and toes crossed. As a person who burns as the sun rises, it was certainly a valuable reminder to stock up on sun block. Here's to more weekends just like that.

This week we welcomed our School Improvement Committee to Henley Bank High School. Comprising of trustees, governors and a HMI Ofsted Inspector, it proved an invaluable source of feedback on our achievements to date and a welcomed measure of support for our journey. All members of the committee were astounded at the progress being made and even more impressed at the rate at which it is taking place. Where disruption free classrooms, impeccably dressed and beautifully mannered students that are always ready for learning are the norm, we didn't fail to deliver on our immediate priorities at Henley Bank High School. Well done to everybody for making this journey such an exciting and successful one so far.

I have been updating you weekly about my hunt for talented professionals to join our school and this week we caught another cracker! Delivering one of the best English lessons I have seen as part of his interview process, it is with delight that I welcome Sean Delahoy to our team in September. Sean joins as Director of English and similar to our recently appointed Director of Science, Graeme Dakin, he will be based at Henley Bank High School. This will give our staff even more access to fantastic training and development opportunities and allow our students to soak up his wisdom and passion for his subject. I would also just like to add what a phenomenal job Miss Breeden is doing with the class of year 10 students that were part of Mr Delahoy's interview process. These students displayed an incredible knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare's Macbeth that wowed the observing panel and kept Mr Delahoy on his toes even causing him to have to skilfully adapt his instruction as he went. It was delightful watching Miss Breeden's reaction to her class performing so well. You could almost hear her internal cheers as she nearly burst with pride on a number of occasions. Well done Miss Breeden you're doing a brilliant job!

That takes our tally to 3 great appointments in just two months. The 'talent radar' is always on and I hope to be able continue to report to you about continued additions to what is already a team of great teachers and leaders that will just get better and better. Exciting times ahead for sure.

On Monday the year 11 exams take full flight with Health and Social Care kicking this season off to a flying start. We wish them success in all of their exams and I thank, with complete gratitude, the additional time that our staff have invested in ensuring that our students have the best possible chance of success.

At lunchtime today staff stepped up to support the Year 11 Prom fundraising efforts by courageously placing themselves in the stocks at the mercy of paying students who took delight in hurling ice cold sponges of water in their direction. Upon seeing that the hit rate was pretty low, I took my chances and stepped up to support the event. It was just my luck that at this point Thomas Harter of year 10 stepped up to the plate like a professional baseball pitcher and delivered five direct head shots! Needless to say I had to teach my next lesson soaked through. Well done and thank you to Mr Barker, Mr Powell and Mr Foran who also took to the stocks to support our students and provide a laugh at the end of another successful week.

On that note, I'm off to get dry.

Have a lovely weekend all. I look forward to writing to you next week.

Kindest regards,

Mr B. Nash  
Head of School