



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

15th June 2018

Dear Parent/Carers

This week we had the pleasure of hosting the termly Secondary Mathematics Strategy Conference which blessed Henley Bank High School with the presence of all the Mathematical minds of Greenshaw Learning Trust schools. Working on the construction of an exciting Mathematics curriculum for next September, such collaboration ensures the incorporation of a breadth of experience and ideas that only a tightly knit trust like Greenshaw can provide. It was great observing such quality staff toil over strategies, theories and processes to ensure the best possible outcome for all of our students. I'm really looking forward to getting stuck into the new curriculum in my own lessons next year.

It is with delight that I welcome two more new members of staff to Henley Bank High School. Jaclyn McNeil will join our Science department on Monday. Joining us from Five Acres High School, Mrs McNeil brings with her wealth of expertise and talent in both teaching and learning and department leadership. Mrs McNeil will be pivotal in laying of foundations for our Science Department in September.

Miss Gemma Laskey will add real depth to our Mathematics department from September. Her flair and passion for Mathematics will be a real treat for our students in the classroom and her expertise and experience in Careers will add further support to our student's exploration of their future plans beyond the green gates of Henley Bank High School.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Zach Robb to our school this week, an event which marked the first time in the school's history that a Teach First candidate stepped onto its soil. In just a few days he has had an immediate impact on our staff and students and promises to be one of Greenshaw Learning Trust's rising stars. Great Mathematicians are hard to find in the current climate but we appear to be attracting real quality from a scarce and valuable source. It is testament to the amazing things that can happen to a school when all stakeholders; staff, students, parents and carers and the wider community pull together to support fully a vision that is set to transform the lives of our students.

One of our trustees is the fantastic British journalist, author and broadcaster Matthew Syed. He has worked for [The Times](#) newspaper since 1999. He has published two books, *Bounce* in 2010, and *Black Box Thinking* in 2015. Prior to his journalistic career, Syed competed as an English [table tennis](#) international, and was the English number one for many years. He was three times the men's singles champion at the [Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships](#) and also competed for Great Britain in two [Olympic Games](#), at Barcelona in 1992 and at Sydney in 2000. With such well-known talent in the Trust it seemed only natural that, in response to our student's continued and uncompromising brilliant behaviour and ability to rise to any challenge, that they too have the opportunity to become Table Tennis champions. We have installed three high quality tables in our quad area and it's great to the children enjoying them during their breaks. It also great to see staff and students playing against each other in a little light-hearted competition. A game of serious skill that focusses the mind and builds both patience, perseverance and fitness in one go. The sound is also rather therapeutic!

After this week there are only 2 exams left for the year 11 students at which point it is the turn of the Year 10 students to enter the examination arena to start their Mock Exams on the 20th June. This will serve as an invaluable experience for the year's 100 students as they are exposed early to the examination process, which will in turn prepare them well for 'their time' in July 2019. Their practice line-up was among the best I have ever seen. A seriously exciting year lies ahead. Good luck year 11 and 10.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend wherever you spend it.

Kindest regards,

Mr B. Nash
Head of School

Year 5 Parents - 'Meet the Head'
Wednesday 11th July from 6pm until 7pm
To book your seats please email Mrs Miriam Wright
at mwright@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
A better chance of success