



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

A great first full week comes to a close at Henley Bank High School and what a week it has been.

I love walking around our school every lesson of every day and watching our teachers in action delivering great lessons to our students. I had the absolute pleasure of watching some of our new staff teach this week. Without writing too much detail all I can report is that my hairs stood upright as I listened to some of the most inspiring instruction and engaging learning dialogue that I have ever witnessed in my career. In all groups and across all subjects students are thriving. Listening to Mr Worsfold, our new Teach First English Teacher, inspire our Year 7's with myths about Cronus and Zeus, two figures in Greek mythology, was testament to the high aspirations that we have for our students and the high challenge that we set in lessons.

Our Year 11 students have thrown themselves into their Period 6 Success Schedule this week. The Mathematics, Science, English, Art, Music, Humanities and Technology departments have been buzzing with additional learning that will massively improve our student's chances of success in their GCSE examinations. In total, nearly 500 hours of extra teaching and learning have been delivered this week and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff and committed students for their combined efforts and brilliant teamwork. I'd also like to thank our parents and carers for ensuring that our students are fully supported in being able to take advantage of such a valuable resource.

On Wednesday we welcomed author and world-wide professional speaker, Richard McCann. The founder of the iCan Academy and author of best-selling novel "Just a Boy" mesmerised and energised students from the outset as he shared the story of his life's unimaginable challenges and how they have helped him to develop a positive growth mind-set. He planted the seeds of possibility in the hearts and minds of all that were engrossed in his moving and inspirational presentation, staff included. His message rang clear with all students who recognised the core values that ran through the veins of Richard McCann, those values which are at the heart of the work that we do at Henley Bank High School. Everybody has the potential to achieve great things in life. All that is needed is an *iCan* attitude and an *iWill* commitment to ensure that no dream is out of reach. After hearing Richard emphasise repeatedly the importance of character strength and great education as parts of a formula for success, the students lined up to shake his hand and thank him for his moving, inspiring and unforgettable address. Richard is a fantastic character, instantly likable and endearing, who has spoken to over 2,000 different audiences, some in excess of 5,000 people, all over the globe. To hear him say in his wonderful Yorkshire accent that our students were among the best behaved and most polite that he had met was a real honour. Henley Bank High School looks forward to welcoming Richard back in April when he will be supporting our Year 11 students as they continue their journey toward GCSE success.

Preparations are well under way for our first ever Open Evening that takes place on Tuesday 25th September from 5:30pm. We are so excited to showcase our wonderful school and we welcome support from our wider community to help promote all that is great about Henley Bank High School. I will be delivering addresses at 6pm and 7pm to ensure that all prospective parents and carers get a chance to hear our vision, learn about our journey so far and become part of our exciting future.

None of these successes would be possible without the sheer positive support that we receive day in and out from you. I thank you and I am eternally grateful.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash