



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 19th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have just finished another tour of our wonderful school with more prospective parents and carers and their children. That's 24 tours this week alone as we rapidly approach the submission deadline of Wednesday 31st October. If you have friends or family members submitting their preferences please urge them to do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. It has been great getting to know more members of our great community and also extremely positive to hear the number of people that are selecting Henley Bank High School as their number one school of choice for their children. It will be an exciting day when the official numbers are released and I look forward to sharing this with you (when I'm allowed to!).

On Monday I had the pleasure of travelling to the Barbican Theatre with our Year 11 students. Known as The Scottish Play for reasons steeped in superstition that date back to the time that it was written in 1606, Shakespeare's Macbeth of course did not fail to impress. King James I actually banned the play due to its number of on-stage accidents and for this reason suggested the play brought bad luck to all that performed in it. Christopher Ecclestone, the 9th Doctor Who, gave an absolutely brilliant performance as the lead and ensured that the contemporary twist on the great play was nothing short of incredible. Another great experience for students that they will remember forever. Few students nationwide can boast attendance to Macbeth at the Barbican. Ours can. That's two great performances in the same number of weeks.

Our Year 10 Geography students completed part of their GCSE coursework requirement this week when they travelled to Blackpool Brook to complete their river transects. Wading through water up to their knees whilst measuring the river at various stages of its course in beautiful surroundings certainly looked and sounded like fun. The outdoor learning experience promises to add incredible depth to their coursework allowing them to make early positive investments toward their final grade in Year 11.

Our Executive Headteacher, Mr Ben Parnell, visited Westminster on Monday and I was overwhelmed by his report that the Regional Schools Commissioner and other members of the Department for Education were waxing lyrical about the progress that Henley Bank High School is making. Imagine that, our little school forming the foundation and focus of discussions at The House of Commons!

Wednesday evening marked our first Careers Evening. The event attracted professionals from all sectors of industry and employment, universities and apprenticeship providers who shared their wisdom with hundreds of students from Year 9 through to Year 11. Miss Laskey led the event which created many new contacts with local institutions who will be sending colleagues to share their opportunities in more depth with our students throughout the year.

Our year 7 and 8 and 9 and 10 ladies football teams took to the field this week in their first matches against other local schools. Despite taking second place, our girls were strong in competition and ensured that the opposition had to work hard for their victory. The sportswomanship shown by our girls was exemplary. Well done!

Languages students from Years 8 and 9 visited Wolverhampton University today to work with lecturers and undergraduates to explore that vast opportunities in industry and employment that the study of languages offers access to. It was an early start for them as they left the school at 0700 but one that will be packed of invaluable and enlightening information that will help them steer their own academic pathways to success.

The first of the GLT Ivy League Lectures was attended by our Year 11 students today. Hosted, by Yate Academy and attended by students from all three secondary schools, our students heard from Steve Bullock, Senior Engineer Lecturer at Bristol University, about how the Sciences, Technology and Design subjects can contribute to seriously exciting careers that could take them to all corners of the globe.



Fun Friday packed The Mill full of students as teams pitched their literacy and numeracy skills against each other in a very closely competed game of Countdown. With Mr Partridge assuming the role of Rachel Riley, placing not so carefully selected vowels and consonants and even more risky number selections on the board, the stage was set for a fantastic few rounds. The Conundrum was all that separated two teams at the top and I am pleased to announce that my team won! It was a great way to end the week for all involved and wonderful to see so many children from all year groups getting involved.

It's now time to draw this really successful half term to a close and I'd like to do so with a "thank you" to you all for your continued support of our staff and students. Henley Bank High School is officially the talk of the town and I firmly believe that what I said in my Open Evening speech is coming to fruition; It's our time.

Have a great weekend. We look forward to seeing all of our students on Tuesday 30th October to kick start another exciting chapter next half term.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'B Nash'.

Mr B. Nash