



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 2nd November 2018

Dear parents and carers,

It was wonderful to see the students on Tuesday after a really engaging INSET day that was spent putting reflections from last half-term into action plans to drive Henley Bank High School into another half-term of further exciting development. We also had the pleasure of welcoming a number of staff from the Timpson Project, an incredible initiative with seriously experienced professionals who will add depth to our commitment to ensure that positive mind-set and good mental health for both staff and students, underpin daily life at our school.

On Tuesday, our students arrived ready for action despite the sudden change in temperature that we have experienced in the past couple of weeks. Between planning and consulting at schools over the half term break, I managed to steal a few days with my family in Dorset. Jack, my now 15-month old boy, went from wearing shorts and a t-shirt, to being wrapped up in so many layers that he looked like a baby seal in a matter of days. The seasons are certainly shifting.

We returned to news that a record number of students will be joining us in September 2019. Whilst I cannot reveal the numbers at present, the largest intake in 5 years is testament to the dedication and passion of our staff, a body of phenomenal students that never fail to impress us and a community that have rallied to support our journey. Greater numbers ultimately mean more opportunities and enriching experiences for all of our students. Great qualifications and an unrivalled strength of character. The future looks bright.

This week saw the appointment of our Sport Ambassadors which followed a rigorous selection process of application, shortlist and then interview with Mrs Cuke, Mrs Benfield and Mr Barker. I am delighted to be able to reveal that Grace Wiggall, Tabatha Kirby, Laila Ourabah, Sophie Yearsley, and Amelia Wright form a team of talented, creative and committed leaders who will be pivotal in the development of sport and extra-curricular activities at Henley Bank High School. Leading the charge is our talented all-rounder, Ross Thompson, currently in Year 11. A passionate rugby player, I know that Ross will guide this team of dedicated individuals to develop the school's sporting capabilities on the field, track, court and pool. A great legacy for a team of young stars.

Our Year 11 students returned with fire in their bellies with Period 6 being the highest attended to date and our new lunchtime Independent Study Zone becoming the place to be for many students who just want to keep ahead of the game. Luck favours the brave. Success favours the courageous and committed. 114 days of hard work. It's all to play for guys and girls. Go for it!

We held our second Year 11 Parent Information Evening on Thursday. The Mill, packed with students and their parents and carers, was the perfect setting to share advice on revision techniques and general exam readiness. All students left with a folder packed full of the latest glossy revision guides and workbooks, highlighters, revision cards and a carefully prepared booklet containing the subject specific topics to be studied. Collectively, these resource packs will support students to know exactly *what* to revise, *how* to revise and *when* to revise by using their revision planning template. We thank all parents, carers and students who attended and supported a really positive evening. We look forward to seeing you again after the Pre-Public Examinations later this month.



We had the pleasure of welcoming students from Coney Hill Primary School to our Art department this week. It was great watching the boys and girls hone their sewing machine skills on a cleverly designed paper race track into which they had to stitch a continuous line as centrally as possible. This, I can assure you, is much easier described than done, as when I took to the machine, I was shocked at how quickly a clumsy foot can turn a pretty friendly looking piece of equipment into a whirring frenzy of tangled thread. The kids were having a great time and we look forward to welcoming more primary school children to Henley Bank High School next week.

Our netball teams did us proud this week with matches against Churchdown School one of which was an exciting 4-4 draw. Great effort girls and good luck with the next fixture.

Friday Fun took the shape of a Halloween Extravaganza that saw students bob for apples, scramble for donuts and take part in a pumpkin carving competition. Great fun had by all and a wonderful way to round off another great week at Henley Bank High School.

I look forward to sharing our successes of next week with you very soon and until then wish you all a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Mr B Nash

