



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 9th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

From a cold snap to a very wet one, this week alone has probably recharged reservoirs in need of filling after the scorching summer recently experienced. Rain, however, did not stop play at Henley Bank High School.

Last Friday I had the pleasure of accepting an invite to visit Rendcomb College. The Deputy Head of this wonderful establishment, Mr Nick Cox, sits as a pivotal member on our Governing Body and whose experience, skills and knowledge will contribute hugely to the provision of the right balance of challenge and support needed by our school. It was a pleasure walking their grounds talking with Mr Cox, meeting their delightful students and inspiring staff and hearing how the two schools, although very different in context, face very similar challenges and celebrate very similar successes. Both schools felt identical with respect to the level of passion that teachers and support staff had for their vocation and the children were incredibly well presented with equally impressive manners. We may have met our match with respect to warmth of welcome! This is the start of a very exciting relationship with Rendcomb College as we look at ways of supporting each other through shared resources, ideas and opportunities. I am already looking forward to our students using their impressive Griffin Theatre, a state of the art Performing Arts facility, the stage in which felt truly magnificent to stand on and not too dissimilar to London's Barbican Theatre which we visited with our Year 11 GCSE students only recently.

Henley Bank High School welcomed students from Shukutoku Sugamo Senior High School, Tokyo, Japan this week. Both schools delivered fantastically entertaining drama and dance pieces to each other throughout the day which gave our Performing Arts students the opportunity to showcase their immense talent. Our students did you and us remarkably proud by ensuring that our guests were very well hosted throughout and I am sure that long distance friendships have been forged. It is again a humbling feeling knowing that our student's names will be being mentioned around breakfast and dinner tables nearly 6000 miles away when they fly home next Monday. We wish them a very pleasant journey home.

Our Year 7 rugby team had their first fixture of the season this week and it gives me huge pride to announce that we beat Churchdown 15-10. Led to victory by Luke "The Whippet" Whitmore, with tries from Jamie Knight (2) and Harvey Church (2) the team delivered a sterling performance that suitably impressed supporters of both sides. A relatively small cohort of students in comparison to that of Churchdown it was testament to just how big our student's hearts are, giving their all from start to finish, dominating at every breakdown and breakaway a blue and yellow force to be reckoned with. I must give mention to Skye Bevan who added an injection of girl power to the team. Her strength, speed and skill was standout. What a great way to christen our new rugby kit! It was an honour having dinner with you all yesterday. Next week's rugby training sessions look set to be very well attended.

With Remembrance Day falling on Sunday this year, we held our own services of remembrance today. You could have heard a pin drop in The Mill this morning when our whole-school assembly gave focus to the history of the Armistice, the relevance of the poppy and the reason for the two minute silence. A wonderfully created presentation designed by ex-servicewoman and Henley Bank High School staff member, Miss Rebecca Camber, and a display of amazing medals by Mr Bunting that included the Victoria Cross set the scene perfectly for our service. With beautifully delivered readings from Lucas Ashton-Jones, Lucy McNab and Tyler Veck, all students were able to learn more about this monumental day where we give thanks for those that gave and continue to give so much. During our two minute silence, we took the opportunity to concentrate our thoughts in reverent remembrance of the glorious dead, those that serve currently and also to remember the soldiers of today, those without physical scars yet who suffer often daily invisible battles in the confines of their brave minds.

We are eternally grateful.

We shall never forget.

Kind regards,