



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 16th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the cold snap switched through torrential rain storms to powerful winds at the weekend, positivity and progress shone down on Henley Bank High school throughout the week.

Our Year 7 netball team were triumphant on the court against Barnwood School earlier in the week which continues this sporty year group's undefeated run. We look forward to supporting further successes for the squad when two international player/coaches join the coaching team later in the term. Similar support is being explored for all of our teams as the commitment to the further development of sport at Henley Bank High School comes to the forefront of our priorities. Winning is of course the priority of any team yet the opportunities for the development of character and friendship groups that team events provide are thriving at our school.

Our Key Stage 3 students had the pleasure of getting involved with the 'Bin It Your Way' roadshow and 'Chelsea's Choice' this week. The former, a group of fantastic performers, delivered a promotion about the importance of binning our litter. The action group focus their attention mainly on the impacts that carelessly discarded chewing gum has on our communities. Unightly gum spattered pavements and incidences of the sticky stuff ruining clothes are experiences undoubtedly shared by everybody reading this letter.

Chelsea's Choice is a very powerful production delivered by an equally talented group of professionals that highlight the dangers associated with social media. The message was clear "not all who *you* communicate with are who they say *they* are". It highlighted again just how important it is for us as parents and teachers to support children to use such methods of communication responsibly and with complete vigilance at all times.

We welcomed a number of visitors to Henley Bank High School throughout the week that included Headteachers, CEOs of other Academy Trusts and Leadership Executives. Our guests had completed a tour of Greenshaw Learning Trust's South West regions schools and the feedback received was so incredibly positive:

"Our guests were deeply impressed by what they saw. Of course I knew what we'd see but nonetheless I am constantly inspired by the relentless positivity of your students and the creativity and passion of your staff."

– Will Smith (CEO, Greenshaw Learning Trust)

"A particular highlight of the day was the feedback from the student group we met at Henley Bank who could not have given a stronger testimonial to the school and eloquently described the changes for the better that have taken place. They were able to explain how these had impacted on them as individuals, on their self-esteem as well as their progress."

– Brian Lightman (Author and Director of Lightman Consulting)

"The overriding factor that made this so inspiring had to be the absolute passion and energy that came across not just from key leaders, but from all the staff I had the privilege of meeting. The passion and energy was also so focussed on one thing – learning, learning, learning and the ensuring that each and every student achieved their true potential."

– Jeremy Turner (Executive Principal)

On those positive notes I'll bid you a great weekend and please pass my thanks to your children for being brilliant.

Kind regards,