



13<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families had a restful half term break, it was fantastic to see all of the students back with so much enthusiasm last week. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we provide a free breakfast for all of our students in the canteen from 8am. Students can choose from toast, porridge and fruit and our provision has been nationally recognised by Kellogg's, so please encourage your child to take this opportunity.

Year 11 continue to make us incredibly proud with hard work, commitment and attitude to learning. Last week we welcomed almost 100 families into the school to talk about the upcoming half term which will be an extremely busy one for our students. The big event this half term will be the Pre-Public Examinations that will begin on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We will replicate the experience of a real examination as closely as possible to ensure that our students are getting the best possible practice and preparation. I would like to echo the key messages that Mr Watson gave to parents at the information evening; firstly, it is crucial that students are in on time for every examination, attendance and punctuality will be crucial for success. Secondly students should prepare for the exams using the revision resources and techniques they have been provided with. Finally, students should ensure that they are looking after their wellbeing by getting a good night sleep, exercising and ensuring they eat a healthy breakfast before a morning examination. We are tremendously proud of everything this year group have achieved so far and we are sure we will have a successful examination period ahead.

This week will see us welcoming our visitors from a Japanese school. This annual event, organised by Mrs Lane, is a real highlight of the year. Our Year 9 students will experience a number of different Japanese cultural activities as well as having the opportunity to learn about what life is like as a student in Japan.

The launch of our Sixth Form has been a huge success, the students have added so much to our school community and everyone is benefiting from the school having a Sixth Form provision. Excellent teaching is at the heart of everything we do and this is reflected in the rapid progress that students are making in their lessons. We have also ensured that we are providing our students with an excellent experience beyond their lessons, so that they will have the grades and wider experiences to access the best universities and careers. In the first half term our students visited; the University of Cardiff, University of Bristol, Ashton Gate, have experienced our volunteering program and have accessed their super curricular lessons which are teaching students key skills for university. This term will be no different with many other opportunities available for our students particularly in student leadership. We are incredibly excited about recruiting our next Year 12 cohort and we would like as many people as possible to come along to our Sixth Form open evening on Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Our college system is designed to create the spirit of healthy competition around the school. Our students are proud of their colleges and will work incredibly hard to see that their college wins. One of my weekly highlights is seeing the student's reaction to which college is the top praise point earner. We also run regular college competitions where students can put their skills to the test in a friendly yet competitive environment. Last half term we had 2 excellent competitions, firstly our pumpkin carving showed students artistic sides with some brilliant entries. Students then showed their creativity in the 30-word story challenge, the talent on display was incredible and all students that entered did themselves proud. Congratulations to the students that won the competitions, we are looking forward too many more in the future.

Stephen Derry, Headteacher

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Henley Bank High School, Mill Lane, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4QF  
T: 01452 863372 | E : admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk | W: www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk

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We also like to use this letter as an opportunity for us to highlight the importance of our co-curricular clubs offer. We truly have a comprehensive programme running this term and there are still some spaces in some clubs, so if any students are keen to join one, they are still available on your MCAS app to sign up. We are also putting together our clubs offer for after Christmas, when this is released to students, parents and carers please encourage your child to take up a new opportunity.

We would like to take the opportunity to remind you of some key dates and events this half term. Year 11 and Year 7 will have their academic review evening and day this half term. This gives parents and carers the opportunity to discuss the academic progress of their child so far this year. Please look out for the letter that will be coming out with more information about these events.

Our Year 7 students will have their first whole cohort trip to the pantomime on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. This is a trip that we have run for several years, and it is always well received by our students.

Finally, we are very excited to invite all members of our school community to our Christmas Fayre which is on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 5pm-7:30pm. This will be a fantastic opportunity to do some Christmas shopping, get in the festive spirits and support the fundraising for our students that are taking part in the Sri Lanka trip.

Yours faithfully

Miss Bradbury and Mr Dakin  
**Co-Heads of School**

**Key dates:**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November** – Year 9 & 10 Ten Tors Fitness Test

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> & Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November** – NHS Nasal Flu Vaccinations

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November** - Christmas Fayre (raising funds for students travelling to Sri Lanka in the Summer 2025)

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November** - Sixth Form Open evening

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 7 Pantomime trip

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** - Inset day

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 9 & 10 Ten Tors Navigation Training

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 7 Academic Review evening

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 11 Academic Review evening

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** - Year 7 and Year 11 Academic Review evening

**All students finish at the end of the school day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.**

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