



Henley Bank High School

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



We are in the middle of an incredibly short but busy and rewarding half term at Henley Bank. We are once again filled with pride at the commitment, enthusiasm, and achievements of our students. Across the school, our focus on belonging, excellence, and opportunity continues to shape every aspect of our work, and it has been a pleasure to witness the positive atmosphere around the school in recent weeks.

Exams!

Our Year 11 students have made an excellent start to their GCSE examinations. From the very first paper, they have demonstrated a mature and focused approach, showing real determination to succeed. What has been especially impressive is their attitude towards preparation – many students gave up time during the Easter holidays to attend our Easter Revision Conference, where they took part in optional revision sessions with their teachers. This level of commitment is a credit to them and to the staff who supported them. We are now preparing for our next Revision Conference, which will take place during the May half term. Students will again have the opportunity to attend subject-specific sessions, and we are expecting another strong turnout. Well done Year 11 – your efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we are incredibly proud of you.

June PPEs

Meanwhile, Year 10 and Year 12 students are preparing for their upcoming Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) in June. These assessments are a vital part of our students' learning journey. For Year 10, they offer a chance to practise in formal exam conditions and develop effective revision strategies. For Year 12, they are a key milestone in the build-up to UCAS applications, helping staff form accurate predicted grades. We know how important these grades are in securing offers for higher education, and we thank you in advance for supporting your children with revision at home. Letters from Mr Watson (Year 10) and Mr Derbyshire (Year 12) have been sent out with full details of the exam schedule and expectations.



Rewards

At the end of the spring term, we held our very first Rewards Week, a new initiative designed to celebrate students who go above and beyond. We were thrilled to recognise those who have shown excellent attendance and those who have earned the highest number of praise points across the term. These points reflect not only academic effort, but also kindness, leadership, and contributions to our school community. As part of the celebrations, our Heads of Year led celebration assemblies to recognise students from each year group.

A particular highlight was seeing students in Dowty College, who won the overall house competition, enjoy a treat from the ice cream van. The whole week was a fantastic celebration of everything we value at Henley Bank, and we are already looking ahead to our next Rewards Week at the end of the summer term. As a reminder you can see how many praise point your child has received in the MCAS app, please see previous communication from Mrs Benfield about how to access this.



Legacy

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Year 12

Some of our year 12 students have also begun their additional Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This allows students to choose a topic to study and prepare a project in a similar way to what they will be expected to do at university. The range of topics our students have chosen are diverse and fascinating and we cannot wait to read them.

Ten Tors Challenge

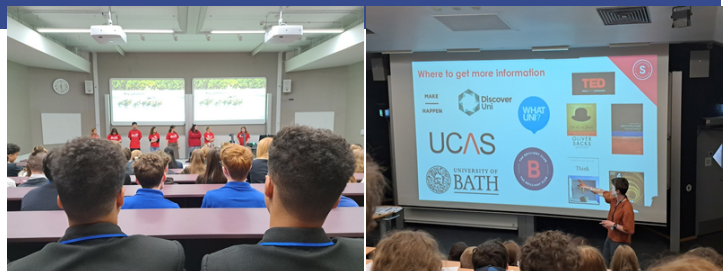
We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students who recently took part in the Ten Tors Challenge on Dartmoor. This demanding outdoor expedition saw students trek 35 miles across challenging terrain over two days, requiring not only physical endurance but also excellent navigation and teamwork. The determination, resilience, and positive spirit shown by our students throughout the event was truly inspiring. A huge well done to everyone involved – we are so proud of what you have achieved.



Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students remains a top priority at Henley Bank. Over the past few weeks, Mrs Kay has been training a new group of Mental Health Ambassadors, who will now be working across the school to offer support and guidance to any student who may be struggling. These students have received training in listening skills, signposting, and emotional resilience, and will play a vital role in promoting a culture where it is okay to talk about how we feel. We want every student to feel safe, valued, and supported – and initiatives like this are just one part of our wider pastoral care programme.

It was fantastic to see our Brilliant Club students graduate at Bath University earlier this term. The students have worked exceptionally hard and thoroughly enjoyed visiting one of the best universities in the world. Well done to everyone who took part, we are incredibly proud of you.

As always, we are so grateful for your continued support. The partnership between school and home is one of the most important factors in a student's success, and we deeply appreciate everything you do to help your children thrive at Henley Bank.



Yours faithfully,
Ms Bradbury and Mr Dakin