



Henley Bank High School

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a term that seems to have flown by, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a hugely successful Spring term for our school community.

One of the most significant highlights has been the continued improvement in student attendance. We are delighted to share that attendance this term has been 1.5% higher than in the Autumn term, bucking the national trend. This is a testament to the strong partnership between home and school, and we are incredibly grateful for the support and commitment shown by parents and carers. While we recognise there is still more to do to achieve excellence, the progress made so far is substantial. Please remember, if you ever need support regarding attendance, do not hesitate to contact us.

We are also excited to share developments regarding our new, state-of-the-art Sixth Form building, which is on track to open in September 2026. This fantastic facility will include a purpose-built study room, a common area, and six additional classrooms. This will add much needed capacity to the school as well as providing our sixth form students with a permanent, dedicated space. There is still time to apply to Henley Bank Sixth Form, which offers an expanded range of A Level and vocational qualifications. If you would like to find out more or discuss an application, please contact Mr Derbyshire.



PPE's

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students deserve special recognition for the excellent progress they have made in their recent PPEs. Their hard work, preparation, and dedication have been outstanding and both year groups showed, on average, a significant improvement in their grades from PPE1. This has come as no surprise when we see the total focus in lessons from our students. As we approach the final examination period, students will have the opportunity to attend our Easter Revision Conference, where staff will be offering targeted support sessions during the holidays. We strongly encourage all students to attend the sessions that they have been invited to—timetables have been shared by Mr Watson and Mr Derbyshire. Further to this, as we approach the final exams we ask that all parents and cares ensure that students have a robust revision plan to support them in being their best leading up to the final exams.

This term has also seen continued success in our Legacy Ladder programme. Year 9 students were deeply moved by a powerful talk from a speaker whose family experienced the Holocaust. Their thoughtful and reflective responses demonstrated great maturity. Meanwhile, Year 7 students were inspired by motivational speaker Kamal Ellis-Hyman, whose message encouraged them to maximise their potential and embrace opportunities.



Looking ahead, we are excited to build towards our annual Legacy Week in the Summer term. This week will provide all students with enriching experiences beyond the classroom, including trips and a variety of activities. We greatly value the feedback received from last year and are committed to making this year's programme even more impactful.

Clubs

Our co-curricular programme continues to thrive, with students engaging enthusiastically in a wide range of clubs—from chess and cryptozoology to rugby. These opportunities play a vital role in developing confidence, resilience, and character. We are particularly excited to introduce Universal Enrichment for all Year 7 students next term. These sessions will take place every Wednesday from 3pm to 4pm and will include activities such as sport, art, music, games, and debating. We look forward to seeing our Year 7 students fully embrace this exciting new initiative.



Ten Tors

We are also proud of our students involved in Ten Tors training, who continue to prepare for their challenging expedition across Dartmoor later this year. Their commitment and determination are commendable and we know the team will tackle the challenge with everything they have got. As we move into the Summer term, we are also looking forward to our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.



Our budding Year 9 scientists recently showcased their talents in the FameLab competition, presenting on a wide range of fascinating topics including biomechanics, psychology, and the mechanics of computer games. All participants performed exceptionally well, and we are especially proud of Katherine, who went on to represent the school in the finals with an outstanding presentation.

We have also continued to enjoy our popular Fun Fridays this term. These alternate between whole-school events and attendance rewards for students who have achieved 100% attendance over the previous two weeks. A particular highlight this half term was our whole-school “Guess the Intro” quiz, which brought the entire school community together for a moment of fun and togetherness. This event was brilliantly led by two of our Sixth Form students, Max and Theo, who deserve huge credit for the maturity, confidence, and flair they demonstrated in organising and delivering such an engaging experience.

Finally, it has been wonderful to end the term with our Celebration Week. This special week recognises the hard work, commitment, and achievements of our students. Celebration assemblies were held across all year groups, with prizes awarded by Heads of Year. Students also enjoyed rewards such as an ice cream van for the winning college, Hill, and inflatable activities for those with 100% attendance or the highest praise points.



Thank you once again for your continued support. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming students back for another exciting term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Kind regards,

Ms Bradbury and Mr Dakin