



Navigating a time of change

Hello and welcome to issue 3 of our newsletter. What a term it has been since our last newsletter at Christmas. It has been a time of huge change, but the reaction of our students to this change has been absolutely incredible. From them having to move to online learning, to the COVID testing and then to the return to face to face learning. Regardless of the challenges put in front of them, they have absolutely flourished and it has been incredible to see them hard at work in their lessons over the past few weeks, as well as seeing them engaging and laughing with their friends at break and lunchtime.

Our Legacy Clubs relaunched last week and the uptake for this was exceptional, with students desperate to continue the hobbies and clubs that they had started prior to the lockdown.

Whilst all year groups have potentially found the last few months challenging, it is perhaps crucial to acknowledge Year 11. Despite the uncertainty about what 'exams' will look like for these students, they have worked solidly throughout remote learning and have really thrown themselves into school life and their



lessons over the last few weeks.

Over the next half term, they will be sitting several exams in all of their subjects in order to support their results this academic year. The entire staff body wish them the very best of luck in these.

The Year 9 options process took place during lockdown which allowed the Year 9 students to meet with a member of the senior leadership team to discuss and support with this process. Two new subjects were added for the options this year – GCSE Religious Studies and GCSE Triple Science, widening the offer that our students can have in Years 10 and 11.

'Being there for each other' was a common theme during this half term, with a huge amount of Legacy Respect postcards being sent to students for all of the work they are doing in helping others. We also celebrated our Young Carers on Young Carers Day (16th March), raising awareness for the brilliant job that they do when they are at home, as well as sending messages and artwork to the local care homes in the idea of brightening up their day. A real sense of community – well done all.

I wish you and your families a safe and healthy Easter break. We have an inset day on Monday 19th April, but we look forward to welcoming all year groups back on Tuesday 20th April.

Stephen Derry, Headteacher



Bubble libraries

We have launched our new Bubble Libraries this term. These are in each of the year group bubble areas and can be accessed before roll call each morning. The 'books on wheels' will allow students across every year group to borrow books from a range of genres and authors to read during DEAR time and at home. Some examples of authors rolling into our Bubble Libraries include Anthony Horowitz, Greg James and Chris Smiths' *Kid Normal* and Lemony Snicket's collection of a *Series of Unfortunate Events*. Students will be given a 'Recommended Reads' sheet to record the books they read from the library. Next term we will also be on the look out for students to become 'Student Librarians'. This will form part of the evidence towards their Legacy Colours award and will involve responsibility for the daily running and organising of the libraries. If you are interested and are in Year 7 to 10, please speak to Mrs Charters.



STAR STUDENTS

Year 7

Jordaine for being a breath of fresh air at all times. He is an incredibly cheerful, enthusiastic and friendly young man, who has thrived since joining Henley Bank High School. His response and reaction to new opportunities, and his joy in celebrating the successes of the school, students and community is something that brightens up everyone's day, and inspires us all to have a positive outlook on life. Not only is he doing an excellent job around the school, but also within his lessons. His teachers regularly let us know what a fantastic job he has done during their lessons.

Year 8

Sapphire and Leo, for their outstanding commitment to achieving their Legacy Colours during the lockdown. To have not only engaged with all of the remote learning, including extended projects within art, music, DT and performing arts, daily PE lessons and all other work set - they went above and beyond to achieve their Legacy Colours. Sapphire achieved all five, and Leo achieved four, and is currently working toward his fifth and final colour. We are all incredibly proud of you, and you both serve as huge inspiration, not only to all the students and the staff, but within our community with the virtues you have shown. I can't wait to see what you both achieve in the future.

Year 9

Savva for his impeccable manners such as opening doors for staff and students. He is a real team player!

Year 10

Amelie for her 100% attendance. She has hit the ground running in her lessons since returning to school, her dedication to her education is fantastic. Keep up the good work.

Year 11

Emantas for his 100% engagement during lockdown and the hard work that has continued during the return to school.

An update from our Heads of Year

Our Head of Year team would like to say a few things about their specific year groups:

Mr Powell – Year 7



Another fantastic term from all students in Year 7, with yet another transition between remote learning and being back inside the building. It has been fantastic to watch our wonderful Year 7 students thrive, no matter what circumstances and environment they find themselves in. Another highlight for me this term has been seeing and hearing about how all the parents and carers of our students rose to the remote learning challenge, and the stories of how you were working to support your children - you have been absolutely incredible and the impact it will have on your children is unmeasurable. Thank you from all of us at Henley Bank High School for your strong community values and support.

Mr Powell – Year 8

It was amazing to see all of our Year 8 students return to us on 8th March, after what has been a rollercoaster start to their secondary education. It was a fantastic day for everyone. Once again, they showed us their prestigious talent for adapting to change, and overcoming challenges – as soon as they sat down for Tutor Time Reading, or got their first Low Stakes Quiz in class, they were straight back, heads down getting on with their work and tasks as if they had never left. Not only were they instantly back in the routine of the school day, the work they were producing was of an incredibly high standard. What a year group and what a year (or so) it has been. I am personally incredibly proud of Year 8, and know that everyone at Henley Bank High School shares that pride – keep it up.

Mrs Middleton – Year 9



Year 9 never cease to amaze me with their determination and passion for learning. Over the weeks I have observed lessons, seeing students eagerly putting their hands up to answer tricky questions. Asking teachers well thought questions, which captivate the class and lead to interesting discussions.

Despite the adversities they have faced, Year 9 have come back to school and got stuck in! The theme running through the Year 9 bubble is teamwork. Students helping each other, caring and supporting their peers and helping teachers and support staff. I have seen students holding open doors for staff and peers, supporting teachers without request to hand out items, helping students in need. Year 9 have set a shining example to the rest of the school, with their behaviour, teamwork and respect for one another.

Well done Year 9, keep up the fabulous work. Wishing you and your families a wonderful Easter.

Mr Barker – Year 10



Year 10 students have come back with a bang! They are doing extremely well in their lessons, their desire, will, and commitment to their education is clear to see. They are enhancing their knowledge across many subjects.

There are a few subjects, along with the topics that they are currently working through, on the following page. All of the staff are very impressed with the work they are producing each lesson.

An update from our Heads of Year

- **Sports Studies** – students are focusing on leadership, preparing to lead their sessions over the next two terms. Core PE – basketball and frisbee this term.
- **History** – students are studying the Weimar Republic and Germany. This looks at the politics and society of Germany after the war and the rise of Hitler.
- **Geography** – students are continuing on with the challenges of natural hazards, looking at what natural hazards are, factors that can affect hazard risk, and then focusing on tectonic hazards, earthquakes in particular.
- **Business Enterprise** – students are currently completing their enterprise business plan, complete with cash flow forecasting. They will be transforming their business plan into a *Dragon's Den* style pitch, which they will be presenting in the summer term.
- **Maths** - students are working through volume and surface area of 3D shapes, straight line graphs, and equations of circles.
- **Science** – students are learning about electricity: What is current, voltage and resistance and how they behave in parallel and series circuits. Then using electricity safely in the home and energy transfers in a circuit.
- **Catering** – students are currently learning about the theory side of catering, also having lots of cooking practice in preparation for their exam. Then they will be moving on to all the different types of hospitality and catering providers and job roles within the industry.

In addition, the whole year group is super supportive of each other. We as a year group understand the importance of teamwork, especially through this difficult time. As a school, we have decided that the theme for this term is Teamwork. Throughout the term we have all been reflecting on the teamwork we have been involved in and what impact we had. We have created a wall of character in our bubble area on the wall we have put all of the year group's information about their teamwork experiences. Reading through them just further cemented how amazing our students are and how proud we are.

Mr Foran – Year 11



The Year 11 theme is 'hitting the ground running'. They have been fantastic upon return, with the best attendance in the school by far.

They have thrown themselves into all the support offered by their wonderful teachers and continue to work really hard towards their upcoming assessments. In a time in education where everything can seem up in the air, they have been grounded, conscientious and committed to their futures.

To say I am proud of them would do them a disservice. I am much more than proud of them – I am in awe of what they have been able to do since they returned.

Legacy Clubs – Summer Term 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Pride	Allotment	Life Skills	Allotment
Student Leadership (for the leadership team only)	Coding	Athletics	Netball
Homework	Football	Homework	Music
	Homework		Homework



Legacy update

Lockdown didn't stop Legacy or our staff offering some wonderful clubs for students to take part in via live links and Google Classroom. During the school closure, our staff offered clubs in Art, Book Club, Coding, Music Tech and Science. Clubs are a key part of the Legacy offer as they give students opportunities to explore other skills and subjects not necessarily central to the main school curriculum. It also builds their character, helping them to become part of a more productive society.

On returning to school, we were able to get some of our favourite clubs up and running again with Allotment and Life Skills taking centre stage. In Life Skills, students have been helping Mr Dance to decorate some classrooms, learning some vital skills in DIY such as plastering and painting. They are doing a phenomenal job! Allotment is all about giving back to our community and environment. Here, students are working on clearing a space and putting down our own allotment to grow food for both our school community and hopefully, in the future, our local community too.

I am also pleased to say that we have got a homework club up and running, which allows time for any student to get their homework completed with support from staff if needed. This runs Monday through to Thursday 3-4pm.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is also still running for those students that have signed up in Year 9 and 10. At Henley Bank High School, we offer the Bronze Award in Year 9 and Silver in Year 10. This year we're pleased to have record breaking numbers of Year 9 students signed up.

There is a sign up link for next term's clubs available now and this has been emailed to students and parents. If anyone is interested in a club, please ask your child to fill in the Google Form and tick all the clubs they are interested in. We are excited that after Easter we will be able to offer sports clubs too and the full list looks like the table on the left.

Here is the Google Form if you would like to support your child in signing up for clubs in the Summer term: <https://forms.gle/vaNmoqktcvNaMfPZ9>

Mrs Benfield, Assistant Headteacher

An explosion of creativity in Cast!

It's been so lovely to see all of our wonderful students back in our workshops, drama rooms, music rooms, kitchens and art studios this term. We have certainly missed the explosion of creativity from students working in these rooms.

It's been straight back to business in art, where Year 7 have been learning about the history of the portrait ready for their portrait project this term. Year 8 have travelled virtually via Google Earth to Australia to gather research about their Aboriginal project and Year 9 have been learning about the artist Wayne Thiebaud. Our GCSE students have been continuing on their coursework portfolios and Year 11 are putting together their final plans for their final pieces – which look set to be amazing! I will certainly share these with you as soon as I can.

Our performing arts students have got straight into practical theatre and are busy working on their performance skills and working with others – it's great to get them up on their feet, moving around and demonstrating their talents via the medium of performance after weeks being at home.

Our DT workshops are beginning to re-awaken with the Year 11s now working on prototypes for their coursework and key stage 3 have been in the IT rooms learning about CAD – which is computer aided design. CAD is a vital skill needed in the design and production of new and exciting inventions!

It's been a return of the amazing smells from the kitchen as all of our groups now begin to polish up their practical cooking skills and chef mastery! Year 11 are currently preparing their ultimate menus of dishes for their final practical assessment where high technical skills and techniques are applied in various forms including, brioche, chocolate pastry and making and shaping pasta from scratch.

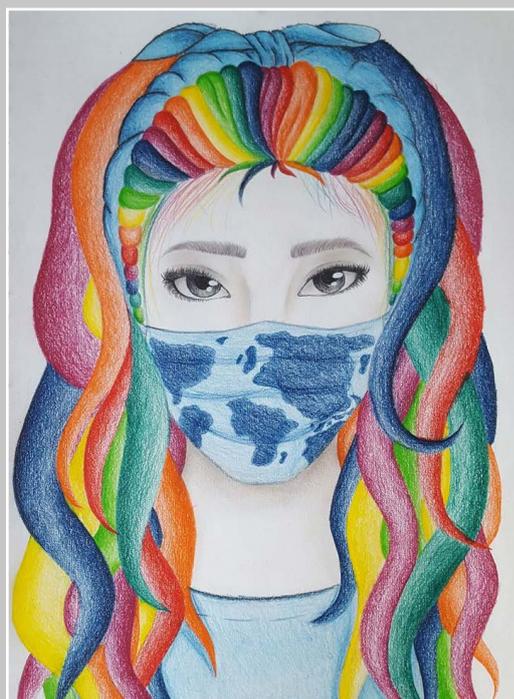
Finally, it's been wonderful to welcome our new music teacher Mr Blackwell who joined us this term and is already having a huge impact on our KS3 with excellent delivery of practical and theory lessons – it's great to have music back up and running. We look forward to hearing new music echoing down through our corridors!

Well done to all of our CASt (Creative Arts and Technology) students for your superb efforts this term!

Mrs Lane, Head of CAST



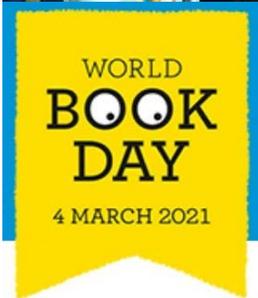
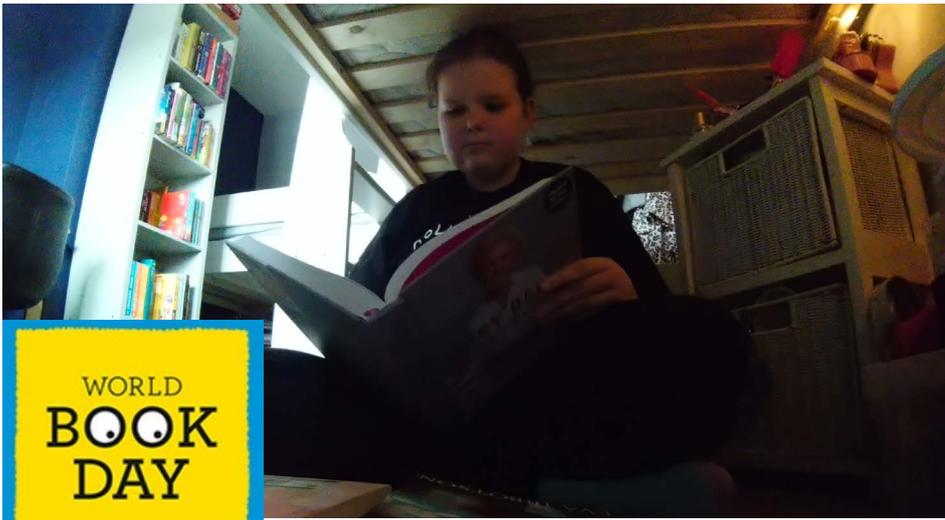
Thea wins Rotary prize!



We were absolutely delighted to hear that Thea in Year 9 took third place in the very competitive and popular Rotary Club Art competition.

She came third out of a very high entry in the intermediate artist section for her beautiful piece 'Covid Rainbow Young Girl'. It is an absolutely stunning piece of work created by Thea in lockdown and we just love how symbolic it is in the current times where the world and communities have had to come together in unity.

Well done, Thea, on such a thoughtful piece created with the highest skills set and thank you to Thea's mum, Beth, for sharing this fantastic news with us.



At Henley Bank High School we ran a number of daily competitions, from writing a haiku to den building, to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. The competitions ran throughout the entire week. On 4th March we also launched a video of Henley Bank staff reading sections of Roald Dahl's *The Boy Who Talked With Animals*. If you have not yet seen the video it is well worth a listen to this heart-warming and beautifully written story. Click [here](#) to listen.

Congratulations to Gracie in Year 8 who built a cosy den to read her favourite book in!

An update on sports at HBHS

We are so excited to be back in the building and the weather looks to be improving as well. Whilst we have been restricted to fitness PE lessons until Easter, we are looking forward to seeing athletics, netball and football return after the Easter break, and hopefully some budding sports students will be there to join us too. We are also busy working on some plans for a marathon event in June, so watch this space!

Mrs Cuke, Head of PE

Year 8 and 9 RS competition

The RS department has created a competition for Years 8 and 9 this half term to help our students to develop their debating skills. The question which was set was "What role should religion play in the world?" Students could either write an essay of no more than 400 words or create a video. They had to give at least one religious view and one secular view within their answer and then finally finish with their own opinion. We have had some amazing entries from both year groups and surprisingly the essay format has proved the most popular. We have also had entries where the whole family has got involved, giving an opinion on video. A huge thank you and well done to all of the students who took part, I look forward to giving you your prizes.

Miss Rawlings

Year 9 options extended for 2021

Throughout the last month, our Year 9 students have been thinking hard about their key stage 4 options. This year we were very pleased to be able to offer our students a broad suite of subjects to choose from. We are now able to add Religious Studies to the curriculum, which has proved a very popular option with our students. We are also able to offer Triple Science, so that our students can study science in greater depth, and Sports Science to strengthen our vocational offer.

The senior leadership team conducted meetings with every Year 9 student and parents to discuss their options. It was a real pleasure to be able to discuss the curriculum with the students and their future ambitions and aspirations. As a team, we were so impressed with the level of thought, consideration and maturity the students gave to their options decisions.

Mr Dakin, Assistant Head

KEY DATES

Monday 19th April

– Staff Inset Day

Tuesday 20th April

– All students return

Tuesday 27th April

– Year 9 HPV vaccinations

Tuesday 27th April

– Year 8 HPV vaccinations

Monday 3rd May – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 4th May – Friday 7th May

– Year 11 Exams

Monday 24th – Friday 28th May

– Year 11 Exams

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

– Half Term

Monday 7th June – Start of Term 6

Wednesday 21st July – End of Term 6

**A reminder that
a link to our
Year 6 Virtual
Open Evening is on
our website.**



We hope you enjoyed reading our newsletter.

Please use the following links to get official information from the school:

W: www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Facebook – @henleybankhighschool
Twitter – @henleybankhigh

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