



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL

Achieving Excellence Together



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all buzzing here after a fantastic first half term of 2025 - despite flooding disrupting our first day. Many thanks for our staff and community for pulling together for what was not the smoothest of starts and our thoughts go out to all affected. Our year 11s have had their mock results - demonstrating what potential our year group has and showing their hard work is paying off. Our year 10s are embarking on their journey towards their first set of mocks next half term. Our year 9s are beginning their options choosing process and we look forward to welcoming

parents in soon for our upcoming options evening. I am also delighted to see our year 7s and 8 continued to pride and engage with extra-curricular activities, particularly the large numbers that are taking part in our school musical this year - Matilda!

Whilst we are on half term - I wish our ski trip staff and students a fantastic break for what I know will be a wonderful experience. Also, those heading to Naples, have a brilliant time. As the days get longer and the mornings brighter, I cannot wait to see what we achieve together in our next half term. Please support us with this by ensuring our students arrive back fully equipped and in full uniform ready to learn.

Teaching and learning

We are excited to share the latest developments in teaching and learning at Henley. Our dedicated staff are continuously refining their practice to ensure that every student receives the highest quality education and makes the most of their learning time.

Silent Retrieval Practice

To create purposeful and focused starts to lessons, all staff have been consolidating their use of **silent retrieval practice**, first introduced at the beginning of this year. This strategy involves students engaging in a brief, quiet activity at the start of each lesson to recall key knowledge from previous learning.

This approach not only strengthens memory and understanding but also ensures that students settle into learning quickly, making the most of every minute in the classroom

Checking for Understanding – The Power of Hinge Points

Building on the success of silent retrieval practice, our teachers are now developing their use of **hinge points** in lessons. These are carefully planned moments where teachers check students' understanding before moving them on to the next stage of learning. By identifying gaps in knowledge early, teachers can adapt their approach and direct students to personalised tasks that support or challenge them appropriately. This ensures that every student is working at the right level to make the best possible progress.

Developing Literacy Skills

We are also focusing on strengthening students' literacy skills through a new strategy being developed by Mrs Robbins, our Head of English, to be rolled out later this term. Mrs Robbins has undertaken extensive research to explore the most effective ways to support learners in improving their reading and writing skills. This initiative will enhance students' ability to access the full curriculum with confidence, ensuring they develop strong literacy foundations that will benefit them in all subjects.

We are proud of the dedication our staff are showing in refining these strategies, and we are already seeing a positive impact in the classroom. Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing good learning habits at home.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about how we support teaching and learning at Henley, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Lunn,
Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning, Assessment and Data



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Head of Year 7 Report

As the memory of Christmas fades, (often as immediate as the first day back!) we are already at the February Half Term break. Year 7 have continued to prove themselves valuable members of the school community. Attendance is the highest in the school - though there is always room for improvement - and we regularly win the Henley Hero's most praise points for a year group.

I would like to remind Year 7 of the impact and importance of kindness to each other, as growing up and proving ourselves are no reason to take another person down. Let's aim to be the ones that keep everyone equal and valid whether they share our likes, our looks or our outlooks. We all deserve space, time and recognition for who we are, not to be made to be what others think we should be.

Have a lovely half term, I'm going skiing with Year 8 and Year 10. I say skiing, but it's likely to be more falling over. Oh well, it will be a good assembly on picking yourself up and taking on new challenges...although I hear getting involved in this sport is a slippery slope...

Mr Eagles

Head of Year 7

seagles@henleyschool.com

Head of Year 8 Report

As we approach the February half-term with Year 8, its time to look back on the start of the new year. We have looked at revision, the holocaust and inclusion in assemblies as well as a special performance and small group discussion from Loudmouth about relationships.

Pupils are working towards their next set of assessments and they will receive their next report after half term. Parents evening will soon be upon us after half term on Tuesday, March 4th – Please look out for further details and booking information when we return.

As we approach the half-term break, we encourage all students to take time to rest and

recharge. Wellbeing is a priority, and we want to ensure that your child is feeling confident and supported both academically and emotionally.

If you have any concerns about your child's progress or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to get in touch with their form tutor or any member of the pastoral team

Miss S Campton Head of Year 8

scampton@henleyschool.com

Head of Year 9 Report

An epic number of year 9 showed interest in DofE and our Bronze cohort now contains 36 of our young people who are eager to embark on completing their sections; it is lovely to see such enthusiasm to show their dedication, commitment and motivation in areas that they excel.

Our Naples parents evening was a success. It is lovely to see such a mix of young people participating in the amazing trip and look forward to sharing our adventures in the next newsletter. □

Year 9 continue to excel in extra-curricular, in particular sporting activities in school, and continue to find themselves on school social media! Outside of school, Jess Tonks came second in the girls race at Warwick, and Pearl S-K participated in the Warwickshire County Championships Freestyle Relay Team and came 8th.

Miss E Betts

Head of Year 9

ebetts@henleyschool.com

Music Tuition Is available for
Piano woodwind guitar violin
drums vocal

Please contact slewis@henleyschool.com for more information.

For any urgent safeguarding concerns where a child's welfare and safety is at risk, please email safeguardingconcern@henleyschool.com

Head of Year Reports

Head of Year 10 Report

Well done, Year 10! You've been working really hard this year, showing dedication, resilience, and a strong work ethic in all that you've done. Whether in class or during extracurricular activities, your commitment is evident, and it's been great to see you grow both academically and personally. As we approach the mock exams and work experience, it's important to continue building on the hard work you've already put in. Use this time to refine your revision, practice your skills, and make the most of the valuable experiences ahead. Don't forget to hand in your work experience forms on time—this is a great opportunity to gain real-world insights and skills. Your efforts now will set you up for even greater success in the future! Keep pushing forward—you're doing brilliantly!

If your child needs anything to support their mocks or work experience, please email me at: gfish@henleyschool.com.

Miss G Fish

Head of Year 10

Head of Year 11 Report

Well done to all Year 11 students for their hard work and commitment leading up to and during the mock exams. Receiving results is a key milestone—not only to recognise achievements but also to reflect on areas for improvement as we approach the final GCSEs.

Now is the time to focus, refine revision strategies, and make the most of support available, including interventions and independent study. Every effort in these last few months will make a difference. Alongside exam preparation, students should also be finalising their next steps, whether that's college, sixth form, or apprenticeships. If you need guidance with applications or decisions, please don't hesitate to ask for support.

Keep up the momentum, Year 11—your hard work now will shape your future success!

Mr Pittaway

Head of Year 11

jpittaway@henleyschool.com

Girls on board

This half term, all girls in years 7-10 have completed the Girls on Board programme. This programme aims to help all girls navigate the choppy waters of friendships in secondary school. It gives students the opportunity and time to reflect on their current friendship dynamics and how they can best support each other in school. They were encouraged to keep an open and honest dialogue with parents and staff when they are struggling, even when the worry only seems like a small one. We are then led by that young person to support them in the way they feel would be the most beneficial to them.

The participation in these sessions was wonderful to see, and students were overwhelmingly positive about this strategy. For more information, please visit: <https://www.girlsonboard.co.uk/parents/>

Charity Update

Just as a reminder, in Y7-10 your child's form has been attached to a charity, with a goal to raise £250 as a form. Each form has chosen three activities to complete together to meet their target.

Just Giving Page

P: The Shakespeare Hospice

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/hias-the-shakespeare-hospice>

R: Safeline

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/hias-safeline>

I: Lifespace

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/hias-lifospace>

D: Myton Hospice

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/hias-the-myton-hospices>

E: Young Minds Matter

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/hias-young-minds-matter>



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Your child has also been set the challenge to raise at least £50 outside of school. They have been given fundraising ideas to support them with this. Any money raised outside of school should be donated to the Just Giving pages above. Once this has been completed, please communicate with your child's form tutor via their planner.

In year 11, each form aims to raise £100. Your child has also been set the challenge to raise at least £25 outside of school. Any money raised outside of school should be donated to the following Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/hias-maggies-centres>. Once this has been completed, please communicate with your child's form tutor via their planner.

Whilst supporting these charities is rewarding in itself, we would like to celebrate the work students have put in to meet these goals:

- P4 for all pupils in forms who meet their target of £100
- P5 and a postcard home for all pupils who meet their individual target
- P6 and a letter home for all pupils who go above and beyond
- A further reward for the students and form groups who have raised the most

We have already raised money for each charity through our Christmas event and non-uniform day. We have a number of events happening in the last week of this half term and into next half term, so please ensure your child has any spare change to be involved in these events.

We look forward to sharing the successes of our pupils along our journey to raise £25,000. Please visit our school Facebook page and read the parent newsletter for updates on our progress. If you would like any further information about our charity challenge, please email me: gfish@henleyschool.com

Library News

This half term has once again been a busy one for the library. I am pleased to say that as well as lessons there have been plenty of students visiting the library at break and lunch. The mobile library continues every Thursday of week 2 in the canteen area for those older students who no longer have library lessons. Please encourage your child to come and borrow a book. There is so much research showing how beneficial reading is for all subjects as well as mental health. We have a great selection of books to choose from.

This half term we have had the spotlight on the author Rick Riordan. His Percy Jackson series are a perennial favourite across all age ranges.



The new books that we bought at Waterstones last term have been lent out many times already. We clearly made some good choices.

After half term we have a week of celebrations for World Book Day. There will be competitions for everyone to get involved in so do encourage pupils to take part. There are lots of prizes too. See the end of the letter for more details.

New book club leaflets have been handed out. If you would like to order anything it is all done on line.

Happy reading

Mrs Daneshyar
Librarian

tdaneshyar@henleyschool.com



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Performing Arts

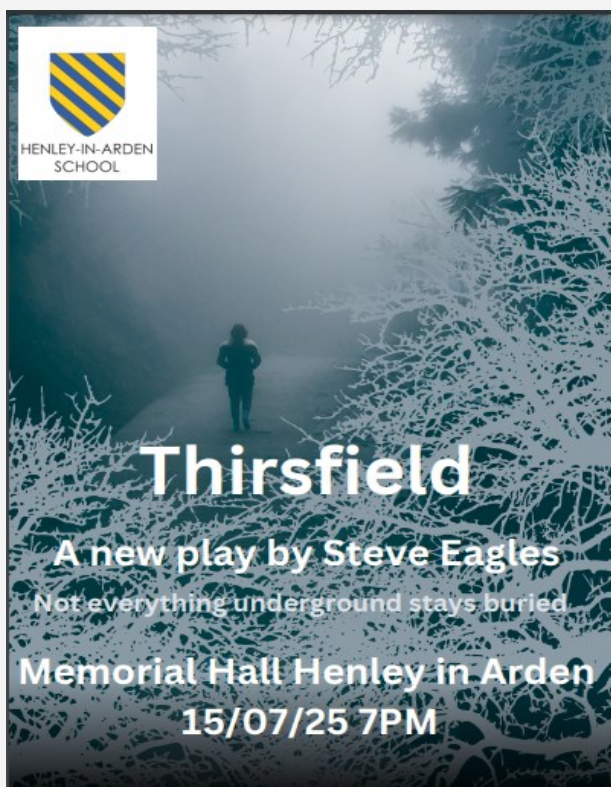
Acting

Year 11 are now devising for their final Component and making a Joint Effort to create new theatre around the theme of...Joint Effort!! Their planning day was a joy to be part of and I'm hoping the work is going to bring them deserved success.

Elsewhere on our stages there have been the brilliant auditions for the school show *Matilda*, well done to all who got involved. The Shakespeare Schools Festival cast had a workshop from a practitioner with the festival on Monday 3rd February and now all of us are excited and focussed on achieving a brilliant performance of the mafia *King Lear* on March 10h at The MAC Birmingham. Tickets are available here

<https://macbirmingham.co.uk/events/coram-shakespeare-schools-festival/>

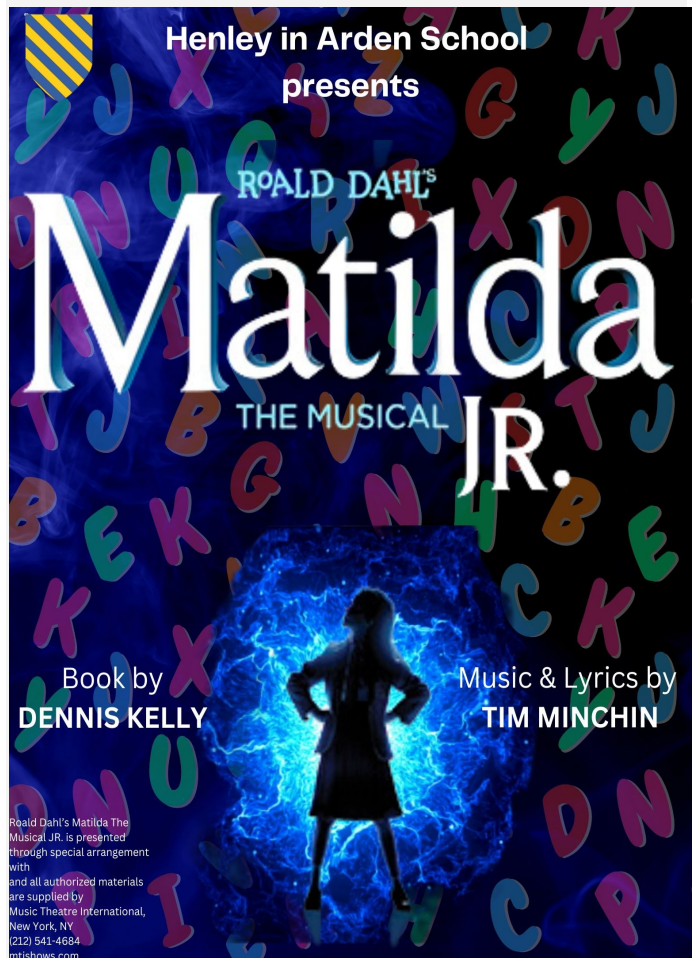
The cast are being invited to start rehearsal for the Henley Arts4All production 2025 and more details are available in the booklet in school and at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/henley-school-thirfield-tickets-1097311019799>



We are looking forward to putting together our summer production of *Matilda*.

Mr Eagles

Head of Acting



Henley-in-Arden School

Dates for your diary

Half term 14th-24th February
 4th March Yr8 Parent's Evening 4-7pm
 20th march Concertina day 2 school closes at 1pm
 27th March Yr9 Options Evening 5:50-7pm
 3rd April Yr9 Parents Evening 4-7pm
 10th April Yr7 Parents Evening 4-7pm
 Friday 11th April Easter break begins

November Showcase

On Tuesday 12th November we were treated to performances from 55 of our students based on the theme 'Connection'. For our Year 11 students this was their final performance for their exam to complete their Component 2. This was the result of lots of hard work since September to learn a professional repertoire. We had an array of styles which included a beautiful ballet duet called 'Trio Pathetique' in the Balanchine style from the Royal Ballet performed by Mollie Haines and Maddie Sands; contrasting to a sassy Beyonce Superbowl style performed by Libbie Hynes and Lola-Mai Kemp.

There were many contemporary pieces starting with a piece which opened the show from Demi Derry, Gracie Prowse, Charlotte Calcott, Harriet Calcott and Isla Ashman which explored our connection with phones and disconnection from the outside world. Neve Wishart and Eesha Johal presented our connection in relationships and how 'Missing You' is the core of our emotions. We also had another street performance from Isla Parker and Freya Chohan displaying a variety of street styles. The connection between dancers and audience was highlighted in a professional performance by the Royal Family Street Crew.

Our Year 10 BTEC class performed their debut with a piece inspired from their written studies called 'Emancipation of Expressionism' based on the journey of life. There was also an engaging 'The Greatest' contemporary dance.

Our Inspire Dance Company performed a beautiful piece to 'Die with a Smile' which was choreographed by our two dance leaders Mollie Haines and Maddie Sands. Our Force Dance Company showed us how they were 'Indestructible' in their contemporary and street fused piece.

We were also presented with some lovely solos from some of our dance company

Members. We were also treated to some beautiful duets from Amelia Webb and Tilly Parker in a Jazz style; a contemporary duet from Anabell Wilkes and Emily Gessey; another contemporary duet from Anabelle Harrison and Alice Smith and finally Faith Sohal-Johnson and Lily Hart again performed their open evening duet.

It was a fantastic showcase; we had so many audience members the students performed twice. Thanks to all who performed and the parental support as always.



Inspire at the Autumn Dance Festival at Walsall Arena

On Monday 18th November we took our Inspire Dance Company to Walsall Arena to perform alongside other schools and colleges as part of Black Country Dance Hubs Autumn Dance Festival. The girls performed a beautiful contemporary piece 'Die With a Smile' and were so professional throughout, myself and Miss Blyth were very proud of them.



Former Student Workshop

Our Year 10 BTEC class had 2 fantastic workshops with one of our former students, Jamie Taylor, who is currently working as a professional dancer/choreographer/teacher. They took part in two workshops based upon a professional work 'Shadows' as part of their BTEC work. They learnt repertoire from the piece as well as developing their own choreography based on the theme of a Jewish family in World War 2.



On Monday 21st January some year 9's competed against five other schools in 'Fits-a-Knockout' at Kinton High School. This fun relay event consisted of all competitors taking part in a farmer's walk (holding 10kg in each hand); 20 x squat jumps; holding the plank for 30 seconds; 30 x shoulder taps; 5 x shuttle runs and 40 seconds in a wall sit.

Our girls tried hard throughout their events and gained a respectable 4th place. Our boys were strong from the start, proving their power to finish in 1st place.

Well done to all who took part.



PE News

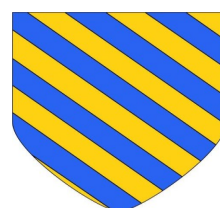
The following year 7 boys for made it through to the final of the South Warwickshire Schools Basketball Cup. They will play either AGS or Stratford in the final.

A team-

George Purkis
Conor Rapley
Connor Walton
Oliver Connelly
Harrison Oakley

B Team

Joshua Gill
Jack Price
Zachary Hingley
Harrison Price
Triston Ashley



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@HenleySchool

On the 29th January our year 8 boys played in a football tournament at Kenilworth school. They came 3rd out of 8 teams. Well done boys, a great effort. We are very proud of you.



On the 2nd of February some of our year 10 students took part in the South Warwickshire Volleyball Tournament at Alcester Grammar School. The hard work that these students put into their PE lessons really paid off. Our A team came 1st and our B team came 3rd. What fantastic results. So proud of you all.



On the 6th of February our year 10's headed to Kenilworth School for the Warwickshire School's Football Tournament. They put on an impressive display, showcasing determination, skill and teamwork. We won or drew all our matches. The boys should feel very proud of their efforts.





SCAN QR
CODE
TO REGISTER

STRATFORD TOWN ACADEMY

FULL TIME 16-19 FOOTBALL & EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



GIRLS
Talent identification & open day
FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY
Girls 14:00-16:00
Presentation & technical
training session



academy@stratfordtownfc.co.uk

STRATFORD TOWN FC
KNIGHTS LANE, TIDDINGTON, STRATFORD UPON AVON. CV37 7BZ

#BardlyArmy



Child Exploitation Awareness for Parents 2024/25

Barnardos Warwickshire Base are running a series of virtual webinars for Parents to raise awareness of the many forms of exploitation including County Lines, CSE and Online Exploitation.

Have you heard of CSE? Do you know about County Lines? How to spot the signs and where to get help? Barnardos BASE Service are bringing you a 60 minute virtual guide to Child Exploitation. This is a perfect opportunity to increase your awareness, ask experienced professionals any burning questions and learn more about the support that is available in your area.

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT...

Child Exploitation Awareness for Parents via MS Teams


Thursday 12th December 2024 - 7pm - 8pm

Wednesday 29th January 2025 - 7pm - 8pm


Thursday 10th April 2025 - 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 - 7pm - 8pm



To book your **free** place please email Rebecca.hill@barnardos.org.uk or Natalie.turner@barnardos.org.uk and we will complete your booking



Child exploitation is happening in Warwickshire - don't ignore it - STOPCE



For regular updates on our service and events please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages:

www.facebook.com/warwickshirece @warksce

Notices

Competitions:

Why not get creative over half term and make a book character out of a cardboard tube for our World Book Day competition?

There is also a national competition to create a book token on the theme of 'Read Your Way.'

Get those felt pens and crayons out and let your imagination flow.

Donations

If anyone has any surplus stocking fillers or toiletries, please can you consider donating them so that we can re-gift throughout the year on our kindness mission, or to support with our charity fundraising. Please send to **Miss Betts in Pastoral**.

Uniform swap

As spring approaches we are sure that some of our young people have now outgrown their current uniform; we have a large stock of donated uniform that is available to swap for this outgrown uniform (where possible).

Email ebetts@henleyschool.com if you are interested.

Reporting an absence

If you need to report your child's absence please either send a message via Schoolcomms system or please call the school attendance line on **01564 792364 option 1**.

After School Clubs

Please note that, due to darker evenings all pupils staying for after school clubs will leave from exits at the front of school. Please arrange to collect from this point.

Pauline Quirke Academy

PQA is a weekend Performing Arts Academy at Henley providing tuition for children and young people from 4-18 years. Students spend three hours, rotating through hour-long sessions in Comedy & Drama, Musical Theatre and Film & Television. Groups are formed according to age and are taught by specialist expert teachers.

Toilet Roll Character Competition!



Prizes to be won!

WORLD BOOK DAY
8 MARCH 2025

Create a book character using the inner tube of a toilet roll!

Bring your entries to the library by World Book Day (Thursday 6th March).

Judging will begin on Friday Lunchtime
Any submissions after Thursday will not count!



Design a National Book Token Competition 2025

Our sponsors, National Book Tokens, are inviting children of all ages to share their creativity – and their love for books and reading – by designing their own fabulous gift cards.

Six winners will bag HUNDREDS of pounds worth of National Book Tokens for their schools and themselves!

TO ENTER
Design a National Book Tokens gift card on the theme of Read Your Way.

One **OVERALL** winner will receive a **£30/£15** National Book Tokens gift card in their design, **for every child in their class** and a class visit to a bookshop to spend them!

FIRST prize in each age range wins:
• **£30/£15** National Book Tokens for the school
• **£30/£15** National Book Tokens for the pupil

SECOND prize in each age range wins:
• **£20/£10** National Book Tokens for the school
• **£10/£5** National Book Tokens for the pupil

The closing date for entries is **Sunday 6 April 2025**

For full details and to download the entry form, visit: worldbookday.com/competition/design-a-nbt

*Up to 25 gift cards, see terms and conditions for home-schooled students

Did you know?
National Book Tokens can be spent in bookshops everywhere and online. National Book Tokens don't expire for 8 years, and all expired gift cards are replaced.

National Book Tokens come in a range of brilliant booky designs, or can be personalised with your school's crest or image.

Want to know more about how schools use National Book Tokens to inspire, reward and motivate their learners?
Visit nationalbooktokens.com/learning

News just in

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!! (For the second year running!)

The following Year 9 boys, Tobias Bishop, Nick Evans, Noah McCalla, Dexter Robinson, Elliot Blake, plus Zach B in Year 8, competed in the School Games County Final on the 11th February at the Combat Centre in Solihull. There were 6 schools in the county finals which proved to be a thrilling and competitive event, with Henley emerging as the well-deserved champions!

The event was a fantastic display of sportsmanship and energy, bringing together students in a fun and engaging way.



All the staff wish you a happy and safe half term.