



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL

*Achieving Excellence Together*



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Henley in Arden. An extra special welcome to our Year 7 students and parents who will not have read our newsletter before. It has been a fantastic start to the term here at Henley - celebrating off the back of our highest results on record. A sign that coming to school, engaging and trying your best really pays off for our young people. I am delighted to see so many of our students engaging with our clubs and opportunities - and keeping their energy levels high as our nights begin to draw in. Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr J Roper**  
**Associate Headteacher**

## Teaching and Learning

Henley-in-Arden School: Advancing Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

We are so proud of our outgoing Year 11 cohort, who achieved record-breaking results, reflecting the strength and effectiveness of our teaching and learning practices. These outcomes demonstrate that students who attend regularly and engage actively in their lessons are making exceptional academic progress at Henley. Building on this success, our focus this academic year is to embed, refine, and elevate our teaching strategies to ensure every learner thrives. A central priority is checking for understanding - a practice that ensures no student is left behind. Teachers will routinely assess whether students have grasped new concepts. Those who demonstrate secure understanding will move on to independent tasks designed to consolidate and deepen their learning, while those who require further support will receive targeted intervention until they are ready to progress.

We are also placing significant emphasis on deliberate practice, encouraging students to engage in sustained, independent work that reinforces key skills. Central to this is the concept of over-practice - the idea that even when a student feels confident, continued repetition is essential to embed knowledge securely, improve fluency, and ensure accuracy under

exam conditions. This approach not only enables students to tackle more complex questions with confidence but also strengthens foundational skills that underpin broader learning - for example, proficiency in arithmetic is vital for success in algebra. Developing student resilience is another key focus, particularly for our Year 11 cohort. We aim to cultivate the ability to work independently for extended periods, a skill that is invaluable both in examinations and in life beyond school. During these independent learning sessions, teachers will monitor students' work in real time, identifying and addressing misconceptions promptly to provide tailored support. This model is most effective when students work in silence during written lessons, allowing for focused engagement and meaningful feedback. To complement our in-school efforts, we have rebranded homework as home learning, reflecting its true purpose: to consolidate and embed classroom learning. Supporting students in managing distractions at home is crucial, as it mirrors the self-discipline required in exams and everyday life, and helps maximise their academic progress. We are excited about the journey ahead and deeply grateful for the huge amount of hard work that goes on at home to ensure all our students make great progress. From all the teaching team at Henley: thank you.

**Mr N Lunn**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

## Year 11 Report

It has been a busy half term but Year 11 have settled in very well to being top of the school and building on their GCSE preparation. The senior prefects have stepped up to their roles in a very mature way to set a fine example to the rest of the school. They have coped with their formal assessments admirably as we now build towards mocks at the end of the Autumn term. I look forward to sharing their journey throughout the rest of this year.

**Mr J Pittaway**  
**Head of Year 11**



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### Year 10 Report

Year 10 have made a fantastic start to their Key Stage 4 journey. It's wonderful to see how much more settled they are as they embrace their chosen options with confidence and enthusiasm.

A large group successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh assessed expedition at the beginning of September. Despite facing rainy conditions—a stark contrast to the summer heatwave—they showed great resilience and teamwork.

Year 10 continue to be active and engaged members of the school community.

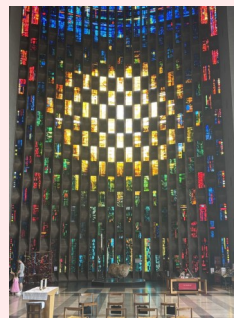
Impressively, 55 students volunteered to buddy Year 7 pupils, and it's heartening to witness the positive interactions and the supportive role models they are becoming.

I'm looking forward to another busy and rewarding year filled with achievements both in and out of school!

**Miss E Betts**  
**Head of Year 10**

In enrichment week at the end of term in July, our students had the opportunity to visit Coventry Cathedral as part of their cultural curriculum. The visit was both thought-provoking and inspiring. Pupils learned about the cathedral's powerful message of peace and reconciliation.

At the time of writing pupils are engaged in both an attendance challenge and a form challenge to see who gains entry to the 'dessert factory'. I have been so impressed by the start Year 9 have made to the year and look forward to it continuing.



**Mrs S Campton**  
**Head of Year 9**

### Year 9 Report

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding first half term, we want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic start Year 9 have had to the academic year. In the first month 30 students managed to gain over 200 praise points, a fabulous achievement. Students have been fully engaged in both their studies and extra curricular activities with students taking part in dance company, plus netball, rugby and football training and matches.

A highlight of the half term was the JCA Netball Weekend, which saw a group of our students travel for a weekend of matches, teamwork, and personal development. The girls showed great sportsmanship, resilience, and energy throughout. It was a brilliant opportunity to build confidence, the team finished the weekend as losing semi-finalists and we are incredibly proud of how they represented the school.

### Year 8 Report

Pumpkin Spiced Latte's are go, it's definitely getting autumnal and there is a sense of the night's drawing in as we head into Half Term. After such a long and settled summer, this might be the time to invest in some vitamins to keep yourselves and our young people as well as possible and in school putting the FUN in functioning!

Year 8 have made a fantastic start, building on their achievements in Year 7 and maintaining high standards of behaviour and uniform. As always, thank you for your support with this. If you have any concerns going forward, please do get in touch. Your child's form tutor is the best point of contact initially, but you can email myself as Head of Year if you feel it is necessary.



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Well done to Year 8's getting involved in extracurricular activities too, with Sports and Performing Arts clubs up and running, this is great to see.

**Mr S Eagles**  
**Head of Year 8**

### **Year 7 Report**

#### **Fantastic First Half Term**

As we reach the end of the first half term, it's been truly wonderful to see how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at secondary school. From day one, they have embraced the challenges of a new environment with positivity and enthusiasm.

Across the year group, students have shown the core characteristics we value so highly: *Participation, Respect, Independence, Determination* and *Energy*. Whether it's getting involved in lessons, attending extra-curricular activities, or helping one another find their way around the school, Year 7 have impressed us all. The number of positive points they have collectively received is already in the thousands, a reflection of both their excellent attitude and strong work ethic. Every day, staff members take time to pass on praise — not just for the quality of Year 7's classwork, but also for their respectful behaviour and willingness to rise to new challenges.

It's been particularly encouraging to see their independence grow over the past few weeks. Many are confidently managing their timetables, getting to lessons on time, and taking responsibility for their own learning. Of course, this is only the beginning of their journey, but the start they've made is one they can be very proud of. With this level of energy and determination, we're excited to see what they'll go on to achieve in the rest of the year. Well done, Year 7 — keep up the fantastic work!

**Mrs S Grant**  
**Head of Year 7**

### **Henley Cultural Event**

On Saturday 13th September, 16 of our Matilda cast performed as part of the Henley Cultural Event at the memorial hall right in the heart of Henley.

The cast opened the performances of the day with professionalism. They performed Bruce, School Song, Revolting Children and a solo from Miss Honey sung by Charlotte Regan. The audience were entertained by their amazing talent which was reminiscent of our fantastic show back in July. Well done to Amelia Webb, Ava Thomas, Charlotte Raegan, Elena Mason-Collis, Evie Connolly, Hannah Smith, Josie Weaver, Lily Squire, Lucia Gegory, Maisie Davies, Megan Bowser, Oscar Baskerville, Ruby Wakefield-Clarke, Scarlett Bayton, Tilly Parker, Toby Blundell and Belle Gisbourne.



### **Pauline Quirke Academy.**

PQA is a weekend performing arts Academy providing tuition for children and young people from 4-18 years. Students spend three hours with us, rotating through hour-long sessions in Comedy & Drama, Musical Theatre and Film & Television. Students are split into groups according to their age and are taught by specialist expert teachers.



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## Open Evening

As part of our annual open evening 5 of our talented performing arts students took to the stage to open Mr Ropers Talks. Evie Connolly, Eve Ashley, Libby Thomas and Ava Thomas performed a beautiful, yet powerful contemporary dance to 'You've got the love.' Maisie Davies then presented her talent from her role as Matilda with her song of 'Naughty. The girls showcased the high standard we have here at Henley. Not only did we have some fantastic performers, but we were also grateful for our brilliant Rock School band in the music department, many students for the 12th Night in the acting studio and many budding dancers performing in the dance studio.



### Upcoming performances:

We welcome you to join us at one of our next performances, details to follow.

### November Dance showcase:

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Christmas Performing Arts Showcase:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Miss L Monk**  
**Head of Dance**

## Drama

Firstly, I would like to say how pleased we were with the Year 11 BTEC Acting results - well done and good luck to a wonderful group of actors.

It was great to see pupils auditioning for our Shakespeare Schools production of 12<sup>th</sup> Night and thank you to those who helped out with a workshop on this for Open Evening on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The performing Arts really shone, and a great deal of that is down to the talent we have in school.

Lessons are full of Terminator tractors with Year 7 looking at the skills of Physical Theatre, the bizarre inhabitants of Desolation Row in Year 8 to create and sustain an original character in performance! In Year 9 we are beginning to consider how to stage Kafka's Metamorphoses, and Year 10 are investigating A Streetcar Named Desire. Year 11 are well into rehearsals for their showcase performance on 13<sup>th</sup> November if you fancy a night meeting the 'regulars' in the 'pub' created for this!

Mr Eagles is completing a HYROX challenge to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support on 25<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to donate to this amazing cause the Just Giving account is

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/steve-eagles-2>

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### Library News

It has been wonderful to welcome the new Year 7s into our library. Many books have been borrowed which is marvellous. My student librarians continue to turn up regularly for their duties and we have added some new members to our team.

This year we are very excited to have our e-platform in full swing. This is available via the student portal for them to borrow both e-books and audio books. There is an option to download the audio books for offline listening. Very handy if you are travelling over half term and they want to continue listening while on the journey. The e-platform also gives borrowers the option to change fonts and background colours to find the option that works best for them.

It really is a fantastic resource. Do encourage your child to give it a go and enjoy the wonderful selection of books available.

**Mrs T Daneshyar**

### Duke of Edinburgh Award

In the second week of September, 40 of our Year 10 students successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh assessed expedition. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school, showing perseverance and determination as they navigated their routes through Cannock Chase over six hours outdoors. Despite being greeted by rain at the finish line, their resilience shone through, and every student passed the assessment. It was a fantastic achievement and a testament to their teamwork and commitment.

**Miss E Betts**  
**D of E Supervisor**

### Special Visitor

Thanks to our ongoing partnership with Bupa Canning Court, a group of our students had the incredible opportunity to be part of a special visit from television presenter **James May**. The event was a memorable experience for everyone involved, and our students represented the school brilliantly—engaging with residents and staff, and contributing to the warm, welcoming atmosphere that made the day so special. We're proud to continue building meaningful connections with our local community through initiatives like this.



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Happy half term from all the staff at Henley.

If you are out trick or treating stay safe and stay seen.



Happy Halloween



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## Sporting Achievements

### Equestrian News

My horse, Owen, and I took part in the horse events school's equestrian games qualifier at Broadway in August. We finished 5th qualifying us for the championships at Dauntsey. The competition structure included a dressage test with walk, trot and canter in it, a course of show jumps and a cross-country phase. Owen and I posted a competitive dressage score, had one show jump down and went clear cross country to finish 4th in our championship class. This meant that I was presented in an unmounted prize giving which included rosettes, prizes and getting sprayed with champagne. It was an honour to represent Henley at such a well-known event.

### Lilly Squire Year 9



### Rowing News

On Friday 19th September 5-time Olympic medallist Dame Katherine Grainger came to Warwick Boat Club to give an inspirational speech to us. I found it incredible that she didn't even want to start rowing! What an Inspirational experience it was for us to meet her.

Grace Lessard



Grace Lessard and Charlotte Foss with Dame Katherine Grainger.

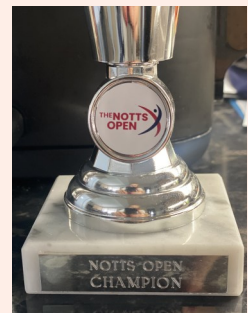
### Gymnastic news

At the start of October it was the first competition of the season for the Men's Artistic group, and **Tobias Bishop** had an amazing start! He came away with overall gold, plus four apparatus golds and two silvers.

What really stood out, though, was how maturely he handled himself. After feeling a twinge in his knee on landing from a tumble in his floor routine, he changed his next tumble mid-routine — so the judges wouldn't notice but also to protect himself from making it worse. Such quick thinking and composure under pressure!

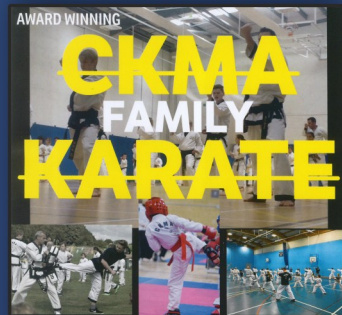
He's worked really hard leading up to this competition, so it's lovely to see his effort and focus paying off.

Congratulations Tobias. What a brilliant achievement.



## RETURNING TO HENLEY

New class starts Mon 8th Sept.



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