



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL

Achieving Excellence Together



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Henley Community,

As I write this - we have just had most of our students celebrating this festive time of year, and what it means to our school and town through an assembly in St John's Church. Through music, reflection and walking into our community - we took the time to recognise the importance of coming together. I hope you and your families are able to take the time to do this over the holiday period. To slow down, enjoy each other's company and feel refreshed for the year ahead.

Things have certainly not slowed down at Henley in Arden School - we have celebrated our performing arts talents in our Christmas Showcase on the 17th of December, our student sports representatives have supported our local primaries. We have had a visit from our local MP who was questioned by our student council. We also welcomed back students past and present for our formal presentation evening, attended by Dr Xander Van der Poll who shared his story of resilience with our guests and students.

We finish the term on Thursday the 17th of December at the usual time of 3:15 - on this day students are welcome to wear their own (festive dress encouraged) clothes to fund raise for the newly established Henley PTFA.

We return at the usual time of 8:40 on Monday the 5th of January.

I wish our students, families, staff and community a very happy new year.

Mr J Roper

Associate Headteacher

Teaching and Learning

This term, in our relentless drive to continually improve teaching and learning across the school, we have explored several exciting developments designed to support students in achieving their very best.

Harnessing AI in Education;

We have been working closely with the trust to develop a trust-wide policy on the appropriate use of AI in schools. Alongside this, staff have been trialling AI tools to help create high-quality teaching materials, ensuring technology is used responsibly and effectively to benefit learning. Training has taken place on the 80/20 principle (AI does 80% of the work, but we still do 20%), prompt writing, creating "agents" and checking for hallucinations. More guidance for parents on the use of AI at home will be forthcoming in the new year.

Metacognition and Learning Strategies;

Helping students understand how they learn has been another key priority. Through metacognitive approaches, we've encouraged students to reflect on their thinking processes and adapt their learning strategies to make them as effective as possible. This has been particularly important for Year 11 in the run up to their mocks, ensuring that revision isn't just creating resources like mind maps or flashcards, but that students actually learn the content on those resources off by heart, and practice applying it in past paper questions.

Building Resilience Through Deliberate Practice;

Resilience is essential for success, both in school and beyond. This term, we've focused on deliberate practice: extended periods of independent, guided work that allow students to embed and deepen their learning over time. This has been particularly important in Year 11 lessons as students prepare for their mock exams.

A huge thank you to families for supporting all learners, and especially Year 11 students during their revision for mocks. The data from these exams, and in all assessments for all year groups, is invaluable in helping us tailor our curriculum after Christmas, ensuring we 'close the gap' by revisiting areas where students



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



need more support, at the same time celebrating their successes. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping every student achieve excellence. Wishing you all a very happy holiday.

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

Year 11 report

This half term has been very busy for year 11 culminating in their mock exams. We have been impressed with their resilience and how well they have coped. Let's hope this is reflected in their marks. Well done year 11 make sure that you relax and unwind over Christmas ready to forge onwards in the new year.

Mr J Pittaway
Head of year 11

Year 10 have had an outstanding first term of Key Stage 4, and they should be incredibly proud of their efforts.

They consistently volunteer their time and energy for enriching activities—whether it's mentoring Year 7 students, completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, taking part in sports clubs, or contributing to debate club. Our recent Awards Evening saw many Year 10 students cross the stage in recognition of their achievements, and their engagement in our Christmas service at church was truly humbling. They continue to make me proud as Head of Year, and I look forward to celebrating their successes at our Rewards Assembly on the final day of term.

I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating Christmas and New Year, and I look forward to welcoming Year 10 back in 2026 with an even stronger attitude towards success!

Miss E Betts
Head of Year 10

Year 9 report

This has been a busy term for year 9 and they have risen to the challenge. They were rewarded with a visit from Kit de Waal, the author of their set text; *My Name is Leon*.

I wish you all a relaxing break and look forward to more good things next term.

Miss S Campton
Head of Year 9

Year 8 Report

There's a happy feeling nothing in the world can buy...Well it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas anyway! Well done to Year 8, the longest term is done and there have been lots of achievements along the way. We will be celebrating, or have celebrated by the time of reading, the end of term with our celebration reward assembly.

We have also launched the '8 Qual' which will monitor students progress in three achievement windows across a range of criteria. The first input for this - to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate is in January with two more through the year with the prizes and responsibilities both growing. Once again I would like to thank Year 8 for their contributions to the school community and praise their overall approach to learning. Stay off the Naughty List!

Mr Eagles
Head of Year 8

Year 7 Report

Wow, how time flies! The end of the first term is already here, and Year 7 have truly done themselves proud. Together, they've accumulated nearly **30,000 positive points** in just one term!

At the start of the year, the goal was for each student to earn **25 positive points** and achieve



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



the Gaming Passport Award—but they've smashed that target several times over. Many of these points have been awarded for **active participation** and **high-quality work in lessons**, showing how well they've embraced the **Participation** strand of our PRIDE learning behaviours.

The **Respect** Year 7 have shown throughout the term—by being polite, caring about others' learning, and demonstrating excellent behaviour during this week's church service—has highlighted their growing maturity.

Independence has been the biggest challenge for most students as they transition from primary to secondary school, but they've taken it in their stride and shown real growth.

Their **Determination** has been inspiring. The resilience and hard work they've demonstrated in lessons make me proud to be their Head of Year.

Finally, our last learning behaviour—**Energy**—is something Year 7 have in buckets! Their enthusiasm for learning is infectious and has spread positivity across the school.

What a brilliant first term and a fantastic end to 2025! I can't wait to see what this amazing year group will achieve in 2026. Keep up the great work, and have a **wonderful Christmas holiday!**

Mrs S Grant

Head of Year 7

from one of our year 7 dancers Florence McCallion with a funky old-school hip-hop dance.

Our Year 10 BTEC dance class presented their version of Motion House's Charge, exploring electrical charges in science experiences on frogs and ones within our brains exploring the changes through dementia. The Year 10 company explored how important connection with friends helps people through this debilitating disease.

Inspire dance company then presented a beautiful contemporary dance which was choreographed by one of our year 11's, Ellie Key, showcasing talent from some of our Year 7 and 8 students. We then moved to a dynamic and emotional duet from Olivia Flores and Genevieve Stead to What About Us. Our finale presented our talented Year 11 dancers showcasing their work for their component 2 exam producing exact professional repertoire from the piece 'Tapestry', an elegant yet dynamic piece exploring the dynamics of friendships. Well done to Darcey Clemons, Libby Stanton, Sophie May Wuerth, Emily Smith, Ruby Parsons and Ellie Key.

We shall look forward to our next dance showcase on Wednesday 15th April, we hope to see you then.

Ms L Monk

Head of Dance

Dance December 2025

On Wednesday 12th November we held out 'Friendship' dance showcase where students from Years 7-11 performed an array of dance styles.

Our evening started with a performance of hope and coming together from our talented Force Dance Company. We then had a wonderful lyrical solo from Coral Eades and Jazz solo from Harriet last. Two of our year 8's Ellena Mason-Collis and Dolce Rae Rowe presented a beautiful contemporary duet. The tempo then increased with a dynamic solo





HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



Drama and Acting

It has been a busy term with one more seasonal offering still to come at the time of writing with two Drama pieces being part of the Christmas Concert. One of these is written and directed by two year 11 pupils, so a big thank you and well done to Belle and Charlotte for inspiring younger years and leading the lunchtime club.

Twelfth Night, the school's entry to the 2026 Shakespeare Schools festival is now all blocked and we are adding in skateboards for our RADICAL interpretation.

Huge [congratulations](#) to the Year 11 BTEC Acting company for their stunning work in the Component 2 showcase production. Warm, funny, touching and hopeful, this was a talented ensemble working at the height of their powers.

Mr S Eagles
Head of Drama

Kit de Waal visit.

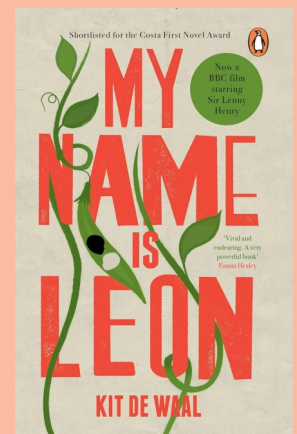
Local author and writer of My Name is Leon, Kit De Waal, visited year 9 on Monday 8th of December to talk about her book.

We have been studying her debut novel My Name is Leon, which tells the story of a young boy during the 1980's going through the foster care system. Her book focuses on the themes of family and identity.

During her visit Kit De Waal talked about her experiences with the foster care system, on the adoption panel then later adopting her son. Kit De Waal wanted to write about something she was a part of and cared about. Throughout the question-and-answer Kit De Waal told us that she originally wanted to call her book the Scarlet Emperor after the seeds Leon plants in his plot in the allotment, however her publishers decided on My Name is Leon.

We were incredibly lucky as Kit De Waal doesn't usually visit schools. After her talk, Kit De Waal delivered a workshop which was very enjoyable and gave many tips on how to write a story. We wrote letters from the perspective of our favourite characters from My name is Leon then we wrote the beginning of a story. The whole experience was extremely enjoyable and inspiring we look forward to her next book set when Leon is an adult.

Ellen Woodbourne. Year 9



Audiobooks

Anywhere, Anytime

 **ePlatform**
digital libraries

CHECK IT OUT





HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



History Club takes on the Trenches... And snacks their way through WW1

This half term, History club boldly marched into the world of World War One trench life – armed not with rations and rifles, but biscuits, chocolate and an alarming amount of sugar. After researching what life was really like in the trenches, students set out to recreate these historic battlegrounds in true History club style, using only edible materials.

To bring their learning to life, students designed and built their very own trench models – entirely edible. From chocolate bar duckboards to biscuit sandbags, and even icing ‘mud,’ our historians turned the horror of the Western Front into something surprisingly tasty. The room was filled with concentration, teamwork, and the occasional temptation to nibble on the construction supplies.

History club is on a Wednesday lunchtime in F6 with Mrs Mullen all historians are welcome.



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

Bar Trial

On 8th November, we took a group of year 9 and 10 students to Birmingham Crown Court for the Bar Trial where students acted as barristers and witnesses / court representatives to role play two different court cases. These students were incredible and even beat Sixth Formers for 2 out of their 3 cases. **Congratulations** to all involved!

Miss Hemming



eBooks Anywhere, Anytime



GET IT ON
Google Play



Borrowing eBooks has never been so easy

- 1** Download the ePlatform app from your app store
- 2** Find our library and log in using your library ID
- 3** Browse and borrow to read or listen on your device

Download on the
App Store



ePlatform
digital libraries



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



Library News

The second half of this term has seen a good uptake of borrowing on the e-platform with audio books proving very popular.

We were thrilled to be visited by the author Kit de Waal on Monday 8th December. A few lucky students had the privilege of taking part in a creative writing workshop in the library. We have focused on books to help with mental health, always an area to be aware of and of course we have a beautifully curated display of Christmas themed books.

The student librarians have also been busy decking out the library with tinsel and fairy lights, adding to the festive feel.

If you are looking for some reading inspiration for the holidays why not try Agatha Christies Adventure of the Christmas Pudding. Or how about The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainani. Or to be right on trend, try The Wicked Years Quartet, by Gregory Maguire.

Whatever you choose, remember reading is a great way to relax and unwind.



A poem by Jude Carr 7P

On to the woods I go for fire
Deforestation I don't desire
Only dead trees I set alight
The embers and flames look like a fight
Roaring like lions they thrive up high
A glow of warmth to brighten the night

DESIGN A SIGN COMPETITION

Do you care about
keeping our
environment clean?

Help to make this happen
by designing a sign that
will encourage people
to reduce litter and
improve our local area.

Your sign should be
eye-catching, original
and send a clear message
to help prevent littering -
every small action makes
a big difference!

All students can enter.

Prizes: The top 3 designs will win Amazon vouchers.
The winning design will be printed and posted
around Henley-in-Arden.

Deadline: Wednesday 7th January, 2026.

All entries should be handed to
Miss Hemming in Room F1.

**Get busy with your designs and help to
make our community litter-free!**



Youth Parish Council

Our student Parish council members met with our MP Manuella Perteghella on Friday 12th December when she visited our school to find out about the involvement of our students with the local Parish Council.



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



PE Highlights

This term in PE has been an exciting and action-packed period, showcasing the dedication, teamwork, and developing talent of students across all year groups. From competitive fixtures to leadership opportunities, pupils have demonstrated exceptional commitment both on and off the field.

Netball has continued to grow in strength, with teams from all year groups displaying excellent progress. Our players have represented the school with pride, showing resilience and sportsmanship against tough opposition. Many of our teams achieved excellent results against South Warwickshire schools this term.



Cross Country participation and performance have been exceptional. Henley students showed tremendous determination during races, tackling challenging courses with energy and perseverance. At the inter-schools Cross Country competition at Alcester Grammar School, Henley recorded the highest participation level across all South Warwickshire schools, a testament to our students' enthusiasm and commitment to representing the school.



In Football, students have taken part in league fixtures and friendly matches, demonstrating significant development in teamwork, communication, and tactical understanding. Our players have shown great energy and determination each week, with several standout performances and memorable goals. Whether during training or match play, pupils consistently displayed a strong attitude and commitment to improving their game.



Our Year 9 Sports Leaders have been busy once again, coaching at the South Warwickshire Primary Schools Football event held at Stratford Town Football Club. They did a fantastic job of coaching, refereeing, and encouraging the younger players. Throughout this term we have offered a wide range of sports clubs, including several new opportunities. We thank our Onside Football coaches, Rich and Tom, and our Touch Rugby coach from Stratford Rugby Club, Caz Farris. A special thank you also goes to Neil at Henley Tennis Club, who continues to provide Tennis coaching throughout the year and ensures our school is always well supplied with much needed Tennis balls!



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



This has been a highly successful term for PE, filled with achievement, teamwork, and personal growth. We are incredibly proud of the effort and commitment shown by all our students, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the new year.



Looking ahead to next term, we are excited to be offering an after-school Rugby club. England Handball will also be joining us to deliver sessions during curriculum time and run a Handball Club after school. We are delighted to have been successful in the Wimbledon ballot this year and look forward to taking some students to this prestigious event. Our GCSE PE students have been offered an exciting Cycling course at Hillingdon, while our Year 8 & 9 Netball girls are eagerly anticipating their tour to Disneyland Paris, where they will compete in tournaments and enjoy time in the park

Literacy Awards

Last week, students were recognised for their outstanding commitment to literacy during a series of celebration assemblies. Certificates and praise points were awarded for a wide range of achievements, including independent reading at the start of English lessons, borrowing books from the library or Eplatform, exceptional effort on Lexia, active participation in Debate Club, and consistently demonstrating accurate writing and strong literacy skills in class and in their exercise books.

All literacy award winners were also entered into a special prize draw for our celebration event: **Breakfast with the Head**. Thirty students were selected and will join Mr Roper and Miss Robbins for a celebratory breakfast during form time on **Tuesday 6th January**.

Charlotte Foss	Lily Foster
Nick Evans	Isabelle Millar
Rachel-Marie Sparrow	
Brwyn Bond	Caitlyn Swalwell
Alfie Wilson	Lilly Squire
Grace Cresswell	Toby Blundell
Zachary Samples	Blake Burgess
Harriet Last	Connie Drysdale
Louie Mitton	Camilla Linsell
Hywel Bond	Roman MacDonald
Nicola Crowhurst	Syzmon Wierzbicki
Victory-Mae Davis-Musbayana	
Dolly Grimes	Noah Clarke
Eve Woodbourne	Neveah Peach
Grace Griffin	Poppy Welsh
Emily-Jane Humpreys	

Mrs A Robbins
Head of English

RETURNING TO HENLEY
New class starts Mon 8th Sept.

AWARD WINNING
CKMA FAMILY KARATE

CONTACT US TODAY FOR YOUR 2 FREE TRIAL SESSIONS:
07817 712536 / www.ckmakarate.co.uk
ckmakarate@gmail.com

INCLUSIVE ANY AGE / ABILITY (3 yrs plus)
as featured on BBC CWR

LOCATIONS:
Stafford upon Avon, Alcester, Norton
Lindsay, Coventry, Balsall Common,
Warwick, Ettington, Henley, Wellesbourne...

