



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL  
*Achieving Excellence Together*



## Headteacher's Welcome

### Associate Headteacher

Dear Students, Parents and our community,

January is not always known for being the happiest month - and at Henley we've been combating that by rewarding acts of kindness in school. Hundreds of students have been issued vouchers as rewards for kindness, and we look forward to our desert factory on the 13th of February to celebrate student attendance and hard work.

On the rare glimpses of the blue sky we have had – it's been a delight to see students enjoying our outdoor spaces. Thank you to our students and community for bearing with us during the frustrating issues with our toilet facilities –

I'm pleased to say these are nearly fully resolved and we've done everything we can to maximise comfort for our students.

We are launching our '10 week challenge' for year 11 as they have only 10 school weeks until their exams and have our full support to ensure their results reflect all their hard work - more details on this to come.

I have been really pleased to see our year 7s engage so well with their assessments this half term, showing huge progress since joining us in September. As we are now halfway through the year, we will be shortly sending out a form to parents to consult about uniform, phone policies and parents' evenings for the next academic year – please look out for this.

Please also keep an eye out for our upcoming PTFA (Parents, Teacher and Friends association) event in March where we will be doing our first family quiz!

A reminder that school opens for students on Tuesday the 24th of February following the Arden Multi Academy Trust training day on Monday the 23rd of February. We look forward to welcoming our students back then ready for form at 8:40am smartly dressed and fully equipped.

**Mr J Roper**  
Associate Headteacher

## Year 11 Report

Following a focused and purposeful return from the winter break, Year 11 students have made an extremely encouraging start to the term. Recent mock exam results reflect the strong effort, maturity, and determination shown so far, and provide a solid platform as students move into the final phase of their GCSE preparation.

With the main examination period now approaching, it is essential that students maintain the positive work ethic established since the start of term. Consistent revision, active engagement in lessons, and careful use of feedback will be crucial in ensuring that mock success is translated into strong final outcomes.

We are also pleased to confirm that the Year 11 Prom date has now been released, giving students a well-earned milestone to look forward to as they work through the demands of the coming months.

**Mr J Pittaway**  
Head of year 11

## HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL

### Forthcoming dates

[www.henleyschool.com](http://www.henleyschool.com)

Weds 4th March year 8 Parents evening  
4-7pm.

Thurs 5th March World Book Day.

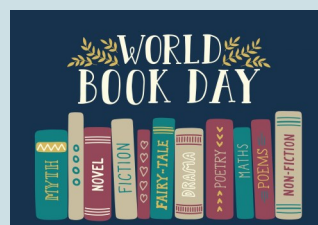
Tues 10th March Disneyland trip meeting  
5:30pm.

Thurs 12th March year 9 options evening  
5:30-7pm

Fri 13th March Author Chris Bradford visit.

Weds 11th March Berlin Trip meeting 6pm

Weds 18th March year 9 parents evening  
4-7pm online.





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### Year 10 Report

It has been a very grey and miserable half term so far, but Year 10 continue to work hard and shine. Their effort and attitude have remained strong despite the gloomy weather. 😊

However, I do have some concerns regarding punctuality to lessons. This is a current challenge which has been matched to the world of war so students are receiving written warnings before a final warning that will result in contact home and further work; the majority of students ARE making sure they arrive on time to avoid losing valuable learning minutes. We will continue to work together to improve this further so thank you to those parents/carers who may have already had conversations with their young people.

**Miss E Betts**

**Head of Year 10**

### Year 9 Report

I am pleased to report that the majority of year 9 are doing well this year. We have already signed up 43 students to do their Duke of Edinburgh challenge. Most of year 9 were lucky enough to attend a performance of Macbeth at the Alexander Theatre as an Introduction to their GCSE text. They are all about to begin the process of choosing their options. Please help them make good choices at this pivotal time in their school career.

**Mrs S Campton**

**Head of Year 9**

### Year 8 report

Thanks to all parents and carers for your continuing support with our young people. This is the dull half-term in a way after the excitement of Christmas, but at Henley we hope that there is always something exciting to bring a little bit of light against the dark nights and seeming ever present rain! As such we are collating the scores for the first 8Qual certification and pupils will soon find out if they achieved Bronze Silver or Gold across the criteria:

Contributes regularly in class

Is polite

Has equipment

Is well presented for learning

Certificates will be handed out soon

Year 8's are also involved in the Performing Arts rehearsals following the auditions for our school musical - Alice in Wonderland

[Congratulations](#) year 8 on all the roles achieved.

Sports clubs are another well attended extra-curricular area of the school and I am always particularly impressed by the commitment of teams in the winter months, which reminds me - I must get out for a run.

Regarding health - thanks to all for battling through the sniffles and hacks of these months where our immune systems take a bit of a hit!

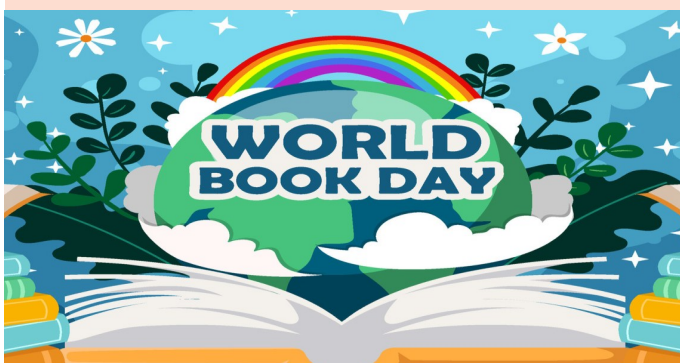
Get in the vits and keep attending as much as you can Year 8 - it's always great to see you in lessons, assemblies and on the playground.

**Mr S Eagles**

**Head of Year 8**

### Year 7 report

As we reach the halfway point of the school year, this is a wonderful moment for our Year 7 students to look back on everything they have accomplished so far. Starting secondary school is a big step, and it has been fantastic to see how confidently and enthusiastically they have settled into Henley life. They are now fully established in their routines, showing increasing independence, maturity and a real commitment to their learning.





commitment to their learning. We are delighted to share that Year 7 have achieved an incredible 47,000 positive points to date—making them the highest-scoring year group in the school. This reflects not only their hard work and attitude but also the kindness, teamwork and determination they bring to school every day. They should be extremely proud of themselves.

As we move into the next half of the year, it's a good opportunity for students to think ahead about what they want to achieve. Whether that's pushing themselves further in lessons, getting involved in enrichment opportunities, or building new friendships, these mid-year moments of reflection can help them set meaningful goals for the months ahead.

We are already looking forward to the PGL trip at the end of the year, which will be a fantastic celebration of all their achievements and the continued success we know they will work towards.

Well done, Year 7—you have made an excellent start, and we are very proud of you. The second half of the year promises to be just as exciting and rewarding.

**Mrs S Grant**

### Acting

Twelfth Night rehearsals are going well - with a workshop featuring a professional actor taking place on the afternoon of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. We hope to skate perfectly onto stage on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Year 11 are devising pieces based on the theme of Common Ground and these will premiere in April; they are already looking impressive.

We will be getting into blocking for Alice in Wonderland soon, and this will certainly feature some outstanding performances in main roles and a madcap ensemble given the quality of talent that auditioned.

**Mr S Eagles Head of Drama**



### Dance

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January a mixture of students from year 8-10 attended Black Country Dance Hub's dance careers fayre. They took part in a series of workshops ranging from Musical Theatre, Contemporary technique, Choreography, Commercial and circus skills. In addition to this, students were able to speak with working professionals to find out what different careers entail and find out about post 16 courses across the Midlands. It was an amazing day and the students gained a lot from it.



Upcoming Performances:

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March-** Our Force Dance Company will be performing as part of the The Great Big Dance off at Dudley Town Hall 4-6pm.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April-** Our Spring dance and music showcase at school, details of tickets to follow, many students and groups involved.

**ALICE  
IN  
WONDERLAND**



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## Library News

We have had a busy half term in the library with lots of exciting new titles being added to our catalogue. Fourteen students were lucky enough to come with myself and Mrs Robbins to Waterstones in Birmingham. We took our wish list and chose titles that we felt the students would enjoy. This trip out particular focus was graphic novels, particularly Manga. We also added some new titles in sport and fantasy including books two and three in the Caravel series. The brand new Wimpey kid title was also added to this perennial favourite series. After an exhausting time choosing books the students were treated to a drink and a cake in the café before returning to school.




Mrs T daneshyar

Librarian



 **ePlatform**  
digital libraries

**Signing in to ePlatform Digital Libraries**  
Anywhere, Anytime

- 1 **Download the App**  


- 2 **Add New Library**  
 Search for your school  

- 3 **Sign In**  
 Sign in using the Username and Password that your school has provided you.  
(Note: You may be directed to an external log in page like Microsoft, Google etc. Simply Sign in log get started).
- 4 **Browse and Borrow**  
 Search for specific titles or browse through collections.

If you encounter issues logging in, please contact your librarian.

[www.eplatform.co](http://www.eplatform.co)

We are very pleased to share the amazing fundraising efforts of our students. Thank you to all who helped and donated. Your efforts will make such a difference.

£536.47	The Shakespeare Hospice
£517.20	Safeline Warwick
£617.59	Lifespace
£394.21	Myton Hospice
£641.94	Young Minds Matter
£358.21	Maggie Keswick Jencks

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 7pm – 8pm

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 7pm – 8pm

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 7pm – 8pm

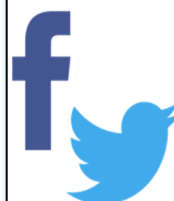
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – 7pm – 8pm

To book your **free** place please email [Rebecca.hill@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.hill@barnardos.org.uk) or [Natalie.turner@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Natalie.turner@barnardos.org.uk) and we will complete your booking

**BARNARDOS**



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



Like us on **Facebook**  
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[www.facebook.com/HenleyInArdenSchool](http://www.facebook.com/HenleyInArdenSchool)

[www.twitter.com/HenleySchool](http://www.twitter.com/HenleySchool)

## PE News

A huge well done to our Year 7 and Year 8 athletes who competed this week at the South Warwickshire Schools Sports Hall Athletics competition at Alcester Grammar School!

🌟 Outstanding performances, brilliant results, and superb team spirit, you did us proud!



♥ Congratulations to all our students who competed in the Warwickshire Schools County Cross Country Championships on Saturday at Princethorpe College. You represented Henley with determination, sportsmanship, and pride, giving your very best against strong competition. We are incredibly proud of your efforts and achievements – well done to every runner who took part! P6s coming your way!



Become an LTA Tennis Leader! ☐  
Ages 11–16

We are delighted that our friends at Henley Tennis Club are offering this amazing opportunity to our students. We know that this will be a popular course so please book early to avoid disappointment.

The LTA Tennis Leaders Course 2026 helps young people build confidence, leadership and communication skills, gain a recognised LTA qualification, and support tennis sessions, sports camps, schools, or DofE.

Dates & Times (must attend both days):

Day 1 – Wednesday 18th Feb:

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Day 2 – Friday 20th Feb:

1:00pm – 5:00pm

Venue: Henley in Arden Tennis Club (outdoors)

Cost: £30 members / £36 non-members

Required to help at Coolsportz tennis programmes & camps

Great for future coaching & leadership experience

To book: Neil – 07912 664426

neil@czsports.co.uk

(Limited spaces apply)

## Poetry Live

On January 26<sup>th</sup> most of year 11 went to Symphony Hall for Poetry Live. Here they were able to listen to some of the poems they are studying for their GCSE'S being read and discussed by the poets themselves. Among the poets appearing were Simon Armitage, the current Poet Laureate, Carol-Ann Duffy, Imtiaz Darkar and John Agard.

Simon



John



### Teaching and learning:

At Henley-in-Arden School, we are continually working to strengthen our teaching and learning so that every student is supported, challenged and equipped to make excellent progress. This term, staff have been collaborating closely to share best practice and further refine our existing routines. We'd like to share some of these developments with you so you can understand how they support your child's learning.

One important area we have been developing is the use of "hinge points" within lessons. A hinge point is a planned moment when teachers pause to check how well students have understood a key idea before moving forward. This quick check helps teachers decide on the most appropriate next step. Students who have understood the concept move on to independent work where they can deepen and apply their knowledge, while students who need more support continue working with the teacher in small groups or receive targeted explanations and guidance. This ensures that no student is left behind and that those who are ready to progress can do so without waiting unnecessarily, helping learning feel purposeful, responsive and tailored to each individual.

We are also embedding deliberate practice more consistently across subjects. This approach involves students practising essential skills repeatedly—even to the point where the work feels "over-practised." Although it may seem repetitive at times, research shows that this focused repetition helps students become fluent, automatic and highly accurate in their work. This level of mastery is essential for exam success and also supports students in being able to use key skills confidently and independently in life beyond school. Deliberate practice also provides opportunities for students to try out exam techniques, build stamina for extended writing and strengthen the quality of their responses.

Deliberate practice looks slightly different across subjects. In written subjects such as English, history and languages, students often work in silence. This creates a calm space where they can process their learning independently and demonstrate what they know, rather than relying on or being influenced by the person

next to them. In practical subjects, such as music, PE or drama, practice naturally takes a different form. It may involve group work, playing instruments, rehearsing routines or applying a range of skills at once—for example, combining tactical thinking, movement and teamwork during a basketball game. Whatever the subject, the aim remains the same: to help students reach a level of confidence where skills feel comfortable, secure and ready to use in any context. We are proud of the professionalism, creativity and reflective practice shown every day by our staff. By refining our approaches and aligning classroom strategies across the school, we aim to create an environment where every child can thrive academically and personally. Thank you for your continued support; your partnership plays a vital role in helping us deliver the very best education for your children.

**Mr Lunn, Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning**



**STRATFORD LIBRARY** **Free!**

# OPEN MIC POETRY

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 13-17-YEARS-OLD** **Thursday 19th February**

**2pm - Free workshop with poet Emilie Lauren-Jones**

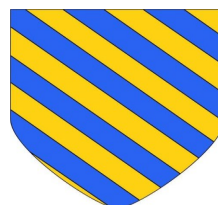
**3pm - Poetry Open Mic**

**Limited FREE lunches available - first come, first served**

**SCAN ME!** 



Warwickshire City Council



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FAMILY & FRIENDS  
**QUIZ  
NIGHT**

Raising funds for  
Henley in Arden School PTFA

Friday  
**13 March**

Arrival 6:30pm  
Quiz 7:00-9.00pm  
Henley High School hall

**£5**

per person plus  
42p booking fee

Teams of 4-6

HOT DRINKS - SOFT DRINKS - SNACKS FROM £1  
RAFFLE TICKETS £1 EACH **Cash only**



Purchase tickets in  
advance via QR code  
or by visiting

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/Henley-In-Arden-School](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Henley-In-Arden-School)

[PTFA@henleyschool.com](mailto:PTFA@henleyschool.com)



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