



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL  
*Achieving Excellence Together*



## Headteacher's Corner

You may be aware by now that this will be the last newsletter I write. I have accepted the position of Headteacher of Cheltenham Bournside School. It's a very much larger school than Henley and I'm going to relish the challenge! They are currently without a Headteacher and so the governors of Henley and the leadership team of Arden Multi-academy trust have very generously waived the normal notice period, allowing me to start in my new school at the start of the new academic year.

This is where being part of a larger trust is a real advantage - despite the changes to our team, we can be sure that the school will continue to provide a great level of education to our youngsters. Mark Wilson, an experienced Headteacher who works for the trust, will act as Interim Headteacher next term, with Ms Thompson as Acting Deputy Headteacher providing continuity through the transition period; the Trust expect to appoint a new Headteacher from January 2020.

I think I can say, without fear of contradiction, that it's been a uniquely difficult year! Having to bid farewell to a school I've known and loved for many years has not made it any easier. However, as I said, a few newsletters' ago, it is the memories we choose to take with us that determine how we recall our experiences. Whilst I'm excited by the challenge of a new school, I'm sorry to be leaving the friendship of my colleagues, the support of parents and the boundless energy and delightful charm of our pupils. I'm sorry that covid-19 has robbed us of the chance to say goodbye properly, surrounded by the excitement of a busy Henley day. But sorrow is not the memory I choose to take away. The memory is of a truly special school, a place of warmth, and laughter, and care. It's tempting wistfully to look to the past but schools, especially a school like Henley, are places where dreams arise and futures begin.

Goodbye. And thank you.

## Music News

Congratulations to Zac Soutter in Year 9 who has passed his Grade 5 electric guitar exam with merit. This is a fantastic achievement particularly since he couldn't take the exam in person, but instead had to record himself playing in an unedited, continuous stream! Impressive Zac, well done.

Miss S Blyth

## Morrisons Food Donations

We are delighted to say that we have received another donation from Morrisons Supermarket to help support families. These supplies will be handed out during the last week of term. Many thanks to all staff who will be involved in distributing the parcels and to Alex from Morrisons in Leamington Spa, who has kindly put together the food parcels and delivered them to school.



## HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL

### NEWSLETTER

Friday 17 July 2020

**End of Summer Term - Friday 17 July 2020**

School finishes at 1.10pm

**Exam Results to be sent to Year 11**

20 August 2020

**School resumes for the Autumn Term:**

Year 7 - Friday 4 September

Year 8 - 11 - Monday 7 September

**All future forthcoming dates to be confirmed.**

## Fond farewells...

This is the time of year when we bid a fond farewell to those of our colleagues who are leaving us.

We're grateful to **Ms Dhadwall**, who has helped pupils through the intricacies of Mathematics throughout the year. **Miss Jones** will be joining the Maths department in her place.

We'll also be saying goodbye to **Ms Devine** our DT teacher who has been such an energetic presence in our school over the last two years. We wish her well in her new role and we look forward to **Mrs McDermott** joining the department.

**Miss Rafiq**, our spectacularly imaginative Science teacher is also leaving us. The approach she has taken to inspiring inquisitive thinking in our pupils has set an example to teachers everywhere. We look forward to **Mr Udall** taking her place in September.

**Mrs O'Neil**, of the English department, returned from her maternity leave in the middle of the school closure and immediately set about supporting pupils in their remote learning. She has since secured a role at Stratford Upon Avon School and we wish her well in her new position. She has been an invaluable member of our English team.

We're also sorry to be saying goodbye to **Mr Discenza**, our ever popular Head of MFL. As well as teaching the kind of lessons that leave pupils laughing hysterically and loving languages, Mr Discenza has also worked tirelessly in his role of Academic Mentor, a role in which he has helped very many of our pupils reignite their passion for learning. He has worked very closely with many families in this role and I'm sure I speak on all of their behalves in thanking him for the support he has given to so many. **Mr Lunn**, our new Head of MFL has very big shoes to fill!

**Ed Cooper**, our Network Manager will be moving to a new position as IT Operations Manager for a large group of schools. Ed's ability to deliver highly effective IT provision

on the tight budgets we have to work with here has been remarkable. I'm not the only one who has experienced Ed's ability to solve IT problems by, seemingly, simply walking into the room.

And finally, there's **Mr McCulley** our Deputy Headteacher who just a few days ago received news that he has been appointed to the role of Principal Delegate for a new school to be built near Rugby and which will be part of the Transforming Lives Trust. Everyone in a school makes a difference but Mr McCulley's impact upon Henley has been immeasurable. He has led the school in very many areas, transforming our curriculum, energising our teaching and being what every Headteacher needs: a thoroughly reliable, creative, independent minded and loyal deputy.

Farewell to you all. We wish you all the very best for your futures!

Mr Jefferies

## A word from Mr McCulley...

I just wanted to thank you all for the wonderful experiences I have had over the last five years of working with you all at Henley. I've travelled with you to the Great Wall of China; climbed Mount Vesuvius and meandered the streets of Rome; ventured over the Austrian ski slopes and enjoyed countless visits to France and Belgium with you all. It's also been my pleasure to work with you all in the Acting and English departments and to see the school soaring to successes because of all of you. I will miss Henley greatly and expect to hear reports of your continued success as I begin my next chapter. Thank you!



## PRIDE AWARDS

Dear Parents/Carers

In these extraordinary times we have had very many positive interactions with students and community either in the support work we have done or in the subtle interactions that working in a school community inevitably brings. Two moments that have reminded us of why we miss our young people so much have been awarding the Character Awards just after Easter and now the PRIDE Awards.

It's hard to believe that this is only our third cycle of this prestigious achievement since it has become embedded in our daily language. We have managed despite the barriers not being in school brings, to be able to recognise those students whose approach to school life and our community warrants acknowledgement. I am sorry we cannot hold our special PRIDE event this year but hope that the certificates, letters and tabs go some way to making up for that. Please sew tabs onto blazers so that they can be worn with PRIDE next school year.

Congratulations to all of the successful PRIDE winners whether at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. I would like to thank you for your input to



school life but also for giving us the opportunity to reflect on the wonderful achievements you have all managed this school year.

Finally, each year Progress Leaders have the difficult task of selecting two students at Gold Level, for the highly acclaimed Head Teacher's Award. I can't possibly list all PRIDE winners but would like to publicly congratulate the students in receipt of the Head Teachers award :

Year 7 – Ethan Gible, Eleanor McLaughlin

Year 8 – Tara Froud, Sebastian Pearsall

Year 9 – Jacob Dyke, Charlotte Jackson

Year 10 – Erin Stenner, Charlie Lewis

We are excited to see students in September and hope that the continued increase in numbers of students achieving PRIDE year on year, continues in 2020-21.

## Character Awards

Those who received Character Awards sent out in April will also get a badge on their return to school.

Prefects will also receive ties and badges in September .

Have a great summer all.

Miss N Thompson



**HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL**

Arden Multi-Academy Trust



We're looking forward to welcoming new colleagues into school next week who will be starting with us in the Autumn term...

**Mr N Lunn** BA, CELTA, PGCE  
**Mr A Matthews** BSc, PGCE  
**Mrs H McDermott** BA, DipMEd, PGCE  
**Mr M Udall** BSc, PGCE  
**Miss D Jones** BA, PGCE  
**Mrs J Smart** BSc, MSc

Head of Modern Languages  
Teacher of PE/Health & Social Care  
Teacher of Design Technology  
Teacher of Science  
Teacher of Mathematics  
Pastoral Manager

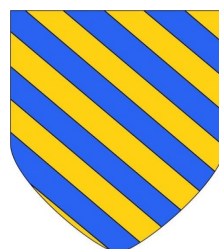
*welcome*  
TO THE FAMILY

We're still recruiting teacher trainees for 2020/21 cycle! Email [traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:traintoteach@arden.solihull.sch.uk) for more info <https://twitter.com/HenleySchool>

## School Uniform Donations

We would like to launch a school supply of nearly new items but in order to support this, we would be very grateful for donations of any uniform and PE kit that no longer fits, but is still in super condition.

Please bring donated uniform to the school reception or the Pastoral Office. Thank you.



**HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL**

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Henley in Arden

B95 6AF

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

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## Henley Equestrian Team News

The team had a fantastic XC training session with Richard Wakeham at Whitfield Farm recently. They all rode brilliantly and made great progress!



Congratulations to Equestrian Team member Ciara-Anne McMahon who competed in a Prelim class recently and earned herself a lovely 5th place rosette! Ciara-Anne and her horse, River, are ones to watch for the future on the dressage circuit!



Well done to Equestrian Team member Libby Swallow who jumped a double clear in the British Novice class at Allens Hill on 1st July to place 8th! A great result after 3 months off from competing!



Mrs S Campton

Mia (in year 7) has shared a photo of her Midsummer Nights Dream inspired cake. It looks fantastic Mia. Well done!



## The winners of the National Writing Day Competition

- 3rd place Annabelle Muller in Year 7: Lockdown Poem.
- 2nd place Rhyanna Richards in Year 8: Squeaky the Squirrel's Lockdown Diaries.
- 1st place Ines Hampson in Year 8: A Portrait of Lockdown.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter the competition. We're delighted to be able to share their pieces with you...

### Writing Day competition

It was time again, time to open the entrance to the world outside. As soon as I step outside it is as I am in a magical world. Every bird that's tweeting, every car that darts by seems to come to a standstill. Time stops.

The only noise I can hear is the continuous roaring of hands clapping. The smell of luscious flowers underneath my nose.

The rocks crunch under my feet.

Everything and everyone seem overjoyed as if they were children that had heard the ice cream man had stopped in front of their house. One minute comes to an end and suddenly, everything comes to an end.

Nothing was muffled anymore, and everything was normal.

I casually plod my way back to the base again until the next time.

Annabelle Muller

### A Picture of Lockdown - Short Story

The sun was setting magnificently. Vibrant purples, dusky pink and burnt orange streaked the early evening sky as I reclined in my stripey deckchair in the garden. As I gazed around me, I was thankful for the beauty of the fine irises, the majestic tulips and the sweet smelling wild pink roses next to the rockery. Smells of mint, rosemary and coriander floated in the air; the herb garden was still flourishing.

Gypsy, the old calico cat, was fast asleep under the old sycamore tree that cast a comforting shade on hot days like these. Lila,

my daughter had set up her easel on the patio in between the various plant pots of all colours, shapes and sizes full of luxuriant green plants and palms. A blissful scene.

I cast my mind back to fifteen years ago ... the first day of lockdown: the streets were empty; there were no people to be seen. This pandemic hadn't just shaken the country: it had shaken the world. People locked themselves in their houses as if they were in a cage hidden away so they wouldn't catch the deadly Coronavirus. No one could see friends or family, no one went to school, no one went to work. The supermarket shelves were empty. The government didn't heed the warnings and the examples of other countries. They were indecisive and the prime minister and his ministers confused the nation. People wore masks to go out which looked scary to children. It was a bleak time.

But there were beacons of light in this darkness. The NHS workers and all other key workers were there for us all, the stronger of the nation helped the more vulnerable, scientists worked tirelessly for a cure. Kindness shone through. Creativity and nature kept me going.

This garden became my sanctuary, my lockdown Eden. Gypsy was a stray kitten who appeared at my backdoor meowing pitifully, one of the many abandoned or stray kittens. I took her in and she became a family member, a lockdown kitten. A month later my lovely daughter, Lila was born. A lockdown baby. She glances across at me and smiles lovingly as she holds up her Lockdown Painting - a project she has had to complete for GCSE Art. The picture is one of a colourful garden, a contented woman reading, a lazy cat sleeping and a little baby in a Moses basket under the sycamore tree in the shade. The picture of lockdown is much like our scene now as nature and the human spirit could not be vanquished.

The sky is still streaked with vibrant purples, dusty pink and burnt orange.

Ines Hampson



## Squeaky the Squirrel

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:

Hi! I'm squeaky, a squirrel. Today was the first day I was allowed out of my nest, the day my mother decided I was old enough to look after myself. I jumped out the nest and just as I started to fall my older brother, Nutty, caught hold of my tail.

"You don't want to fall from this height Squeaky," he told me. "You'd just fall to your death. To climb, you have to grip the tree."

This little piece of advice came in handy and I carefully clambered down the trunk of the tree. It was a pretty tree, where we lived. About 20m tall and the trunk 1m thick. Our nest was about 15m up. It was the safest place on earth as cats don't climb this high and hawks don't land near the trunk so the predators never came close to our nest.

I hopped onto the hedge at the end of the nearest garden, the one with the climbing frame and the evergreen fir tree. The hedge had three shapes coming out of the top of it: a rabbit, a squirrel and a shape at a first glance I couldn't make out. Looking closer (at the metal structure there to help the hedge grow into the shape), it was supposed to look like a chicken but had grown a bit too much. Obviously, the owners of the garden hadn't given it a trim for a while. Well, they can't now, seeing that they are busy doing schoolwork inside during the lockdown as the schools are all closed. I know there's a lockdown because my mum said one of my fellow squirrels overheard some humans talking about it, and this thing called corona virus had caused it. Really, humans underestimate our intelligence. I bounded over the grass towards the plants. That's when I spotted the strawberries. Big, red, heart-shaped fruit hung from the plants, a mouthwatering sight for any squirrel and I just couldn't resist temptation.

"Oi!" It was the female adult, the mother of three kids, two girls and a boy. And she was on the patio at the front of the garden, yelling at me. "Get off my strawberries, you filthy rat!"

I was out of the garden and up the tree in the amount of time it took her to cross the lawn. I was so frightened I stayed in the nest for the rest of the day.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April:

I might have been frightened yesterday, but today I am as happy as anything! I peered into the garden I had been in yesterday to see that the youngest

child, a 11-year-old girl with blonde hair and blue eyes, was swinging on the swing. I'd seen her before. Her name was Ruby. Last time I saw her she was playing with her older sister, who was around 13 years old, in the garden. I'd heard her older sister call her Ruby and heard Ruby call her older sister Rhyanna. I'd never seen their brother, so I supposed he stays in the house all day long, kind of how I stayed in the nest all the time before yesterday.

I watched her swing for a few minutes before running off to find something more interesting to do. The thing I found to do was playing tag with Nutty in the field behind the garden until Ruby had gone inside before having a second go with the strawberries. This time I picked a bunch and took them to the nest. My mum was absolutely overjoyed to see them.

"Oh goodness Squeaky, where did you get them from?" Nutty asked when I returned. "We haven't had strawberries in ages!"

"There's a garden that grows them, in front of where we were playing. I thought it might be nice to have some for dinner!"

"Bad girl! I can't even believe it! You don't take food from gardens, you take food from wild plants," my mum scolded me. "As a punishment, you can go to bed early tonight. You can go in gardens, but you can't take the humans' food. Taking these strawberries is just selfish! I hope you left some for the humans who live in that house?"

"Yeah, they've got plenty," I replied, now feeling guilty and ashamed of myself at the same time.

"Right. Now eat and go straight to bed, Squeaky. Nutty: you and I will eat later." My mum must be really mad to make me go to bed so early. I ate the strawberries my mum put in front of me and then trudged off to bed.

*Well, it could have been worse I thought before falling fast asleep.*

Rhyanna Richards



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## Arrangements for September

The school will be open for all pupils from the start of the Autumn term. The day will begin and end at the normal times for all pupils.

There will, of course, be strict risk mitigations in place to ensure that everyone stays safe. Our school is not big enough to literally keep year groups in their own "bubble" but with careful planning and management, we'll be able to have "virtual bubbles" which will allow us to respond to the track and trace requirements should anyone fall ill. We'll also have many other infection control measures in place which will greatly reduce the risk of transmission. For example, there will be a strict one way system around the school, "touch points" will be cleaned throughout the day, desks and chairs will be cleaned at the end of every lesson, every classroom has a hand sanitiser dispenser which will be used on the way in and on the way out of the room; subjects that require the sharing of practical equipment will be taught differently; contact sports will not take place. Year groups will have allocated recreation areas and times for lunch.

So there's lots in place but the ones that really affect how you prepare for September are these:

**Transport** – the transport operations team from the local authority will be finalising plans over the summer and information will be made available for families that rely on school transport in August; that will either come directly from the transport operations team of Warwickshire L.A. or from us.

**Arriving at school** – in order to keep year groups separate, pupils will need to go straight to their form rooms when they arrive in school. We'll be informing pupils of their tutor groups in the course of the Summer so that you'll know where to go when you arrive in September.

**Equipment** – it won't be possible to lend equipment (pens, pencils etc) during the day. It is essential, therefore, that pupils come to school fully prepared (with spares if possible) for the

school day.

**Lunch** – "grab and go" food will be provided for those who need it and there will be staggered lunch times to make it possible to serve whole year groups without them coming into contact with others. Lunchtime will be longer to make this possible. However, it won't be possible to provide food at break time and for that reason, and also in order to reduce serving time as much as possible at lunchtime, we would encourage as many pupils as possible to bring a packed lunch. Water coolers are also an obvious possible source of transfer and these won't be in use. Therefore pupils should also bring enough water to get them through the day.

**P.E.** – There won't be any P.E. lessons on the first day back but on the days when pupils do have P.E. they will need to wear their P.E. kit for the whole day as there will be not be adequate changing facilities.

### Foodbank opening times

MONDAYS 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm      TUESDAYS 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm,  
THURSDAYS 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm      FRIDAYS 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm

Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford-Upon-Avon CV37 6BG



#### Walking Directions

From The Royal Shakespeare Theatre and The Swan Theatre continue along Waterside, with the river to your left, away from the town centre and continue along Southern Lane.

At the T-Junction you need to turn left into Old Town. Carry on until you reach the second entrance to Holy Trinity Church and we are on your right-hand side



*Emergency food for people in crisis*

**Keeping  
apart.**

**Keeps us safe.**

Social distancing is still  
important for all of us.





## Would you or someone you know benefit from parenting advice and support at this difficult time?

The family support duty helpline operates, Monday to Friday from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. On:

**01926 412412**

Support is available regarding all aspects of parenting and family life.



To contact the Family Support Team please telephone **01926 412412**

or send an email to the your local family support team:

**North Warwickshire:**  
familysupportnorthwarks@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Nuneaton and Bedworth:**  
familysupportnunbed@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Rugby:**  
familysupportrugby@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Warwick District:**  
familysupportwarwick@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Stratford District:**  
familysupportstratford@warwickshire.gov.uk

Support can be offered through telephone calls, video calls, text messaging or emails to suit your individual needs.



Parenting programmes and workshops are also available.

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/parenting-courses](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/parenting-courses)

Now offering via  
Microsoft Teams!

**Warwickshire**

**Primary Mental Health Team**

### Parent Information Sessions via Microsoft Teams

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person living in Warwickshire?

The Warwickshire Primary Mental Health Team offer free Parent Information Sessions via Microsoft Teams with a Mental Health Clinician.

You will have the opportunity to learn about common emotional wellbeing concerns in children/young people and find out what you can do to help.

Please email [risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk](mailto:risecommunityoffer@covwarkpt.nhs.uk) or call **07917 504 682** to receive a link and click to join the session!

TOPIC	DATE	TIME
Challenging Behaviours	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	1.30pm – 3.00pm
Anxiety 3-11	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	1.30pm – 3.00pm
Anxiety 12+	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	1.30pm – 3.00pm
Self-harm	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	1.30pm – 3.00pm
Sensory Needs	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	1.30pm – 3.00pm

#### Understanding and managing challenging behaviours in children aged 4-12 years

You will learn about social learning theory and why some children may develop difficult or challenging behaviours. You will have a greater understanding of some possible underlying causes of these behaviours. You will learn practical strategies and techniques that may be helpful to manage your child's difficult behaviours at home. You will also find out where you can access local support if you are worried about your child's emotional wellbeing.

#### Understanding and supporting children aged 3-11 years with Anxiety

You will learn about anxiety and how we can help our children people manage their worries. You will learn to identify the signs & symptoms of anxiety and how it might present in children of different ages. You will learn to differentiate between the usual stresses of childhood and anxiety that may be more problematic for your child. You will learn practical strategies and techniques you can do at home to support your child when they are feeling anxious. You will also find out where you can access local support if you are worried about your child's emotional wellbeing.

#### Understanding and supporting children aged 12+ with Anxiety

Similar to the above topic, you will learn about anxiety in relation to young people aged 12+ years. You will also learn some new strategies to support a young person within this age group. You will also find out where you can access local support if you are worried about your child's emotional wellbeing.

#### Understanding and supporting young people aged 12-18 years who self-harm

You will learn about self-harm, what it is and how you can help your child/young people? You will learn about some of the reasons young people self-harm and what can maintain this behaviour. You will learn practical strategies and techniques that may be helpful for a child/young person who is self-harming. You will also find out where you can access local support if you are worried about your child's emotional wellbeing.

#### Understanding sensory needs in school aged children

You will learn about sensory processing in children/young people and gain an understanding of how it affects them in their day to day life. You will learn about your child's sensory needs and how you can support them to better manage their anxiety, low mood and other common mental health difficulties. You will learn practical strategies & techniques to try at home to manage your child/young person's sensory needs and will also find out where you can access local support if you are worried about your child's emotional wellbeing.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All our sessions are aimed at early intervention and prevention and may not be suitable for those already involved with other Rise Services. These sessions are not suitable for parents of children/young people with moderate to severe learning needs.





## No Books? No worries!

If you're looking for something to read over the summer, look out for the summer reading lists from your teachers. If you can't get your hands on a book, don't worry. You can find loads to read by borrowing [e-books](#) or [audiobooks](#) from Warwickshire County Councils [e-library](#).

You can also find books and reviews on [LoveReading4kids.co.uk](#) or read on **Google play books** or **Apple ibooks**. These have free books, too. Click [here](#), if you'd like to hear Daniel Radcliffe reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone:

**A great resource with advice, information and free resources** for parents and carers of children with **dyslexia**, but that will be useful for all types of readers can be found [here](#). For even more resources for **young people with additional needs** try "[Chatter pack](#)"

**"Once you learn to read you will be forever free." Frederick Douglass**

Mrs H Wallace

## From the chair of governors

On behalf of the Governors I would like to thank Mr Jefferies, and all the staff at our school, for their outstanding contribution throughout this pandemic.

Everyone has worked tirelessly to present "business as usual" to our children, and have been a shining example of resilience, fortitude and professionalism throughout despite, in very many cases, having their own personal circumstances to worry about and loved ones to protect. Through virtual lessons, every attempt has been made to engage and progress our pupils' learning and to try and alleviate the enormous stress placed upon their young lives. To our Year 11s who have suffered such an abrupt end to their time with us, we wish them well on their next journey; we're so sorry that their time with us ended as suddenly as it did.

Despite what is said in the press about the support that some schools are giving their children, we know how hard the Henley team have all worked and know how much they have all earned their summer holiday. Let us hope that come September 'business' really can be as 'usual'.

To the staff of the school, I would like to say that we as governors are truly thankful and humbled by the way you have all stepped up to the plate for our pupils, and wish to publicly say: Thank You.

Sue Westmacott, Chair of Governors