





Headteacher's Corner

The very first thing I must cover is to express my thanks for the tremendous support you have afforded me and the Henley staff, since my start in September. COVID requirements have made it particularly difficult to implement some normality in attempting as much as possible a return to normal school life. There has been varied experiences during this term but I would like to thank your children for their efforts and their resilient attitude shown whilst facing unprecedented obstacles to their learning due to the COVID restrictions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for doing a truly remarkable job to keep staff and children safe and well, and to maintain a focus upon providing a high quality of education that will have an impact far beyond the current tough times we are living through.

There have been many highlights this term that I would like to share with you. I have been impressed how well your children have focused on their learning and have worked to address any gaps in knowledge they have due to missing so much schooling through lockdown. I know the GL assessments and individual subject recovery plans have assisted in identifying these gaps and will form the focus of their personalised learning next term.

In addition, our and your charity efforts with £179 raised for the Remembrance Day poppy appeal. Similarly, our link with the Henley community where we supported their fundraising efforts to "walk to Bethlehem" to assist in providing for the Henley Christmas lights. When you travel through Henley high street in the evening, you can only be impressed with the quality of the display and the communal spirit this celebrates. You as parents have contributed £392 and counting through the parental Gateway process.

Furthermore, the opportunity afforded by the walk to Bethlehem initiative and non-uniform day, allowed the students to participate in other fund-raising efforts in supporting other charities on that week, including mental health and anti-bullying. In total the day raised £932 pounds, much needed funds that we will distribute between these two charities.

This achievement by both our students and you as parents symbolises the superb attitude of all of you in demonstrating your charitable efforts and selfless characters in helping others who need additional support.

I know the community will support our last fundraising effort on the last day of term, with a non-uniform day to assist the homeless this Christmas. On the back of the kindness week the affirmations written by our students epitomises everything that is good and special about Henley school. They represented such honesty and thought for others, and recognised how when we work collaboratively, both school, their peers and them as individuals benefit, ensuring that Henley school is a good place to be educated and personally developed.

There does at last seem more hope towards greater normality moving forward into a New Year and I would like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thanking you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mark Wilson

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th December 2020

Forthcoming Dates:

w/c Monday 14th December 2020

GCSE Mock Examinations continue

Friday 18th December 2020

School breaks up. Early close 1.10pm

Monday 4th January 2021

Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 5th January 2021

All pupils return to school

Monday 11th January 2021

Concertina Day—School closes at 1pm

www.henleyschool.com Twitter: @HenleySchool

School Closes on Friday 18th December Early finish at 1.10pm

Buses and transport will be notified to collect pupils from school at this time.

Please ensure that your child can be collected from their drop off points at the earlier times.

This will be a 'festive' non-uniform day for staff and pupils. A £2.00 contribution will be collected for the Homeless Charity.

Advance Notice

Monday 11th January is a Concertina Day to provide additional staff training.
School will close at 1pm.

Parking Outside of School

Over the last few afternoons there's several parents parking in Arden Road on double yellow lines causing terrible traffic congestion. Our local residents have been adversely affected and in some circumstances were late picking up their own children from the junior school due to this. We are concerned that this may cause an accident and the local residents have informed the police requesting that they monitor the situation.

Thanks for your support

Dinner Cards

If your child has misplaced their dinner card they can request a replacement with the IT department.

There will be a charge of £2.00 for a replacement card to cover the additional printing costs. More information regarding this will follow next term.

Foodbank

Stratford upon Avon Foodbank, and Stratford Churches Together are supporting the provision of a weekly food parcel delivery for struggling families living in and around Stratford during the Christmas break. Please see list of most wanted items, and contacts, later in this newsletter.

Henley's Dark Materials!

On December 1st Year 11 BTEC Acting Companies performed Henley's Dark Materials for examined assessment. There was an excellent level of professionalism across the casts and a real sense of support for each other both during the day and on the afternoon performance.

Grades will be shared soon with the learner actors, but a real 'well done' is deserved for mounting a production in difficult circumstances, and for a number of outstanding performances.

The company will present devised work for performance next April, and I very much hope an audience will be allowed to share the work once again!

Mr Eagles





Please see later in the newsletter for the appraisal letter from the organisers of this year's Shakespeare Schools Festival in response to Henley's performance of Measure for Measure.

Laptops 4 Learners

Thank you for your support.

A local charity is refurbishing old laptops and distributing them to children who have no access to IT at home. If you have any old laptops (no matter what the condition) then please could you get in touch with Mrs Laszcz <u>llaszcz@henleyschool.com</u> or hand them in at reception.

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government has written to schools about the end of this term. Their letter contains the following:

"We know that school and further education leaders, teachers and staff, as well as nurseries and childminders, have worked tirelessly over the last term. This has included their important role in contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. We are aware that this has led to additional work over weekends and holidays and we are incredibly grateful for this.

We recognise the challenges of this responsibility at the end of term. Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. We are clear that beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing. It is also likely that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week."

Parents, if you could please email us the name of any child with a positive test following Henley school closure next Friday 18th December.

The senior leadership team will monitor the email address on each day of the first 6 days up until the 24th December.

The email address is covid@henleyschool.com

Our last day at school will be Friday 18th December, with a 1.10pm finish time for your child. The buses have been contacted regarding the earlier finish.

Thank you for all your support with these challenging and ever changing times.

Kind regards, Mark Wilson

Kindness Week

The beautiful trees created in school, each leaf an affirmation written by our students.



Every leaf is a young person considering their own and others mental health!





Year 7 have been getting into the festive spirit creating Christmas sheep for the community nativity.



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL
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Up to 50% off Rail Travel

West Midland Railway's Student Season Tickets are now available for purchase ahead of the spring term. Students receive up to 50% discount when they purchase a termly season ticket.

Please find information at www.wmr.uk/students

Christmas Tree Sale

The sale of Christmas trees continues for the final two weekends; 12th/13th and 19th/20th December. Festive Forestry will be in the coach park selling their luxury home grown trees between 10am-3pm each day.



"WE'LL SHOW WHAT'S YET BEHIND, THAT'S MEET YOU ALL SHOULD KNOW"

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL DELIVERS FIVE STAR PERFORMANCE

Measure for Measure Henley-in-Arden School 20th November 2020 appraised by Jessica Moffat



I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Henley-in-Arden School for your exceptional production of Measure for Measure as part of the 2020 Shakespeare Schools Festival, One Night of Shakespeare. Against all odds you have shown the world that theatre can be created in the darkest of times, demonstrating the best of yourselves. It was a wonderful performance, and I'd like to highlight a few aspects that really stood out.

Your ensemble work was your strength and you could tell this play was created by a tightknit team who worked brilliantly together. The energy and focus from everyone on stage was impeccable. I was particularly impressed by the ensemble who pitched the action and reactions in the background just right to create atmosphere and tell the story without pulling focus from the central characters. I loved how the ensemble repeated key words and movements to highlight important moments in the play. This was an excellent storytelling device that supported the audience to understand this complex plot. It was also visually interesting to watch, and gave your performance energy, intensity and drama.

Well done on dealing with the complex themes of this play with maturity and depicting them in thoughtful and meaningful ways throughout.





You clearly had a strong understanding and command of Shakespeare's language. I was impressed by each actor's powerful performance and you handled the complex emotions with confidence and power. As a result you portrayed the desperation and tension between the characters beautifully.



Your characterisation was fantastic – you had clear motivations and actions throughout the play and as a result the audience were captivated and invested in the fate of these characters.

This was a moving, powerful and thoughtprovoking adaptation of Measure for Measure told by a professional and focused cast.

I am in awe of your boundless creativity, talent and determination.

This was the year for experimentation and you rose to the challenge of performing Shakespeare for the camera with bravery, resilience and ingenuity. This demonstrates a great deal of maturity as actors, and innovation as theatre makers. I know you will look back on 2020 with a great deal of pride at what you have achieved especially in light of the challenges you have faced. You all deserve a round of applause and standing ovation!

"This was a moving, powerful and thought-provoking adaptation of Measure for Measure"







MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- O TINNED MEAT
- TINNED FISH
- TINNED VEG
- INSTANT MASH/TINNED POTATOES
- MEAT MEALS
- VEGETARIAN TINNED MEALS
- DRIED MILK
- SHAMPOO/DEODORANT/SHAVING FOAM/RAZORS
- TINNED FRUIT
- ANGEL DELIGHT/SPONGE PUDDINGS
- TINNED RICE PUDDING/ CUSTARD
- PRESERVES /PEANUT BUTTER
- UHT JUICE
- WASHING UP LIQUID
- WASHING POWDER/LIQUID
- SMALL JARS OF COFFEE

Donations can be left at SUA branches of Tesco, Morrisons, Waitrose, Co-op on Trinity Mead Sainsbury's Local on Bridge Street, Co Op in Bidford, <u>OR</u>

Donations can be brought directly to our Warehouse @ Stratford Methodist Church CV37 6BG at the following times: Monday & Wednesday 2 – 4pm or Saturday 9.30 – 11.30am

(please note we cannot accept deliveries at any other times)

Instructions for delivery to the Methodist church: please park away from the front door, press the buzzer for "Wesley Hall' and then step back - one of our volunteers will be with you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support 10/12/2020



Phone: 07736 929029

Registered Charity No. 1153297