



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL  
*Achieving Excellence Together*



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, and our community,

It has been a half term of celebration for Henley.

We've had sporting successes; a fantastic set of results from our Year 11 mock examinations; a wealth of celebration assemblies at the end of term for each year group; our formal presentation evening with guest Speaker Andre Mariner with lots of previous students and, most recently, our weekly Henley Heroes updates – where in form time we celebrate our students who have improved their progress, attendance and/or demonstrated acts of kindness. We have also celebrated the many strengths identified in our recently published Ofsted Inspection report.

None of these are possible without the continued support of our parents and community and the dedication our students show each day.

I wish you a restful half term!

Mr Roper  
Associate Headteacher

## Teaching and Learning

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February saw the second Arden Multi Academy Senior Student Teaching and Learning Conference. Eight of the Senior Student team accompanied Mr Roper and I to the Midlands Art Centre in Birmingham to meet with representatives from our 3 sister schools.

The pupils had prepared a truly excellent presentation on inclusive teaching at Henley in Arden School and how staff help students, no matter their target grade, to be the very best they can be. Our Senior Students showed great maturity and independence in how they put together their presentation, including some really thought-provoking student voice work.

After waiting nervously, the students gave a very confident and polished performance which showed the level of hard work and dedication

they had put into producing it.

After refreshments and an enlightening ice breaker activity, pupils settled into a morning session where they experienced what it was like to learn through the lens of students with different learning needs to their own; this really helped students to develop empathy and consider how they could mentor students in younger years.

After collaborating in mixed school groups pupils then gave another presentation in the afternoon about what each school could learn from the ideas of the others.

These days are a real highlight of the AMAT calendar and show not only the differences, but also the similarities and strengths of the provision in each of our schools.

I wish you a happy and restful Half Term.

Miss Price  
Deputy Headteacher

## HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February

**Forthcoming dates**

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

**Twitter:** @HenleySchool

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February

AMAT training day (School closed to pupils)

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

School re-opens at 8.40am

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Possible disruption due to industrial action

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Curriculum Enhancement Day Year 9

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Concertina Day—School closes at 1pm

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Shakespeare Schools Festival performance

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Year 8 Parents' Evening

## January and February 2023 Library

### Highlights

#### **Wednesday Addams and Enid Sinclair – A lesson in accepting each other's differences.**

Due to its popularity amongst students, a new display has popped up in the library featuring the well-known tv and film character, Wednesday Addams and her best friend Enid Sinclair.



Despite being in perfect contrast to each other (Enid is loud, bright and preppy – everything that Wednesday hates) their friendship eventually grows into one of acceptance of their differences. Neither tries to force the other to become something different, to change their persona or identity. They both develop a healthy respect for each others' boundaries too, though at the end of the series, Wednesday does tolerate one of Enid's hugs.

Friendships aren't always easy. They require hard work, communication, and willingness to forgive and learn from past mistakes. Wednesday and Enid are no different! They show that even if you might be very different, as long as you care for and respect each other, you can find a life-long friend in the most unlikely people!

#### **Overdue Library Books – Request for Help**

We have an unusually high number of overdue books at the moment. Please can all parents check if their child has any overdue library books. If so, please ensure these are returned to the **red library returns box** in the library as soon as possible. Please ask students not to leave them on the library desk.



### **Lost or Damaged Library Books**

If your child has lost or damaged their library book, there will now be two available options to replace it. You can either replace the book using a second-hand website, such as World of Books, or a £5 replacement fee can be added to your child's School Gateway account, so that a replacement copy can be purchased by the School Librarian.

Please e-mail Mrs Marsh on [kmarsh@henleyschool.com](mailto:kmarsh@henleyschool.com) if you wish to discuss lost or damaged books further.

### **New Fiction and Wider Reading in the Library**

We work hard to provide students with books they want to read (book requests) and books we think they will enjoy reading. We also research which titles compliment the curriculum, so that students have access to



wider reading that will enhance their learning experiences while at Henley. It might look simple but this carefully created display features books on positive role models, dystopian lands, celebrating neurodiversity, graphic novels and manga (both hugely popular), historical fiction, romance, sport and survival in extreme circumstances.

Reading widely means taking yourself out of your comfort zone and into new territory. Aside from a feeling of self-satisfaction, students who read more independently and widely benefit from vocabulary expansion, memory improvement, stress reduction, better sleep, greater reading comprehension and greater general knowledge than those who do not. As a result, they naturally become better readers, score higher on achievement tests in all subject areas, and have greater content knowledge than their non-reading peers.

**Mrs Marsh**  
**School Librarian**



## Valentine's Competition

Over the past four days, students have been taking part in a non-traditional Valentine's Day competition, which, instead of focusing on people, has asked them to focus on why they love visiting the school library. The display has plenty of room for more hearts, so please visit the library and fill in a heart to share why you love it so much. All hearts with a comment on the display were entered in to a prize draw, with either chocolate, a book or a book token up for grabs as prizes. Entries were accepted until Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, with the winning heart drawn on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Don't forget to write your name on the reverse of your entry.



## A.I.M. Higher Writing Day

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, students from Year 8 were invited to an A.I.M High Writing Day hosted by Arden Academy. A.I.M. stands for Achieve, Inspire and Master. Our students had the opportunity to work with professional journalist and scriptwriter, William Gallagher.

He has authored radio scripts for Doctor Who and written for many world-famous organisations and publications, such as the British Film Institute, Radio Times, BBC News Online, the Los Angeles Times and The Independent.

Students were very excited to work with such

an experienced writer and, by the end of the day, had conducted interviews, created a character in the round and been inspired to write their own mini script, all while having a thoroughly enjoyable time in the process.

Our students represented Henley School brilliantly! Fantastic effort from Finley in particular, who braved the room to read his work.



## Mrs Marsh's Book of the Month:

### Roller Girl a Graphic Novel by Victoria Jamieson



Astrid has always done everything with her best friend, Nicole. So, when Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for a summer camp, she's sure Nicole will be right by her side. That is, until Nicole signs up for ballet camp instead – with Astrid's worst enemy.

So begins the hardest summer of Astrid's life, as she struggles to stay on her skates, to learn who she is without Nicole...and to find out what it takes to be a strong, tough and awesome roller girl!

This perceptive coming-of-teens graphic novel brings the fearsome, feminine world of roller derby to life.

**Mrs Marsh**  
**School Librarian**



## English News

### Competitions

Congratulations to Olivia Pemble in Year 8, whose story will be published in the next Young Writers Anthology....

### Charlie and the mysterious bear

Back in the year 1876, a little boy named Charlie Bottiny was down to his last \$5 and he was wondering what to spend it on. As he walked past the iconic tree that has branches twisted like the Kraken's tentacles, he saw a mysterious looking shop that looked at least 50 years old. Then he saw the most amazing thing. He saw his teddy bear from when he was 3, so he bought it. It cost \$3. But little did he know, there was something creepy hidden within the depths of the teddy.

In 1877, the boy went missing....



The National Literacy Trust is running a competition for students in Years 7-9. This is your chance to write persuasively about something you want to change for the better. This could be anything that you feel passionate about: how our school can ensure everyone feels included; how you could help vulnerable people in your community; or how to make things fairer for everyone in the world.

Speak to Mrs Jones in the English Department for more information.

**Mrs Jones**  
**English Department**

### After School Book Club (Years 7-9)

School Library

3.15pm-4.15pm

Please contact Mrs Marsh for more information at [kmarsh@henleyschool.com](mailto:kmarsh@henleyschool.com)

## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION \*\*Battle of the Bard\*\* The Fight for Lights.

Those of you who have seen a production in our school hall may have noticed that the stage lighting has a range of two options – Lights on or lights off!

We are now looking at a series of events to make sure that the lighting in the Hall and eventually the Performing Arts block reflects the talent of the young people on our stages.



I would like to bring your attention to one of these – a Heavyweight contest featuring 10 rounds of Shakespeare speeches between the challenger Nigel 'Hi Vis' Woolley, member of our site team and trained actor, & the Drama Champion Steve 'Teech' Eagles our Head of Acting!

On 29<sup>th</sup> April in the school hall you can witness this Tempest of text as a panel of guest judges decide the winner over the 10 rounds.

An Afternoon Tea is also to be included with the ticket price of £5.00.

We are also hoping that someone may see this 'Fight for Lights' as an opportunity for personal or business sponsorship to help the cause and make our school shows, Presentation Evenings, assemblies and lettings far brighter than currently!

If you would like to discuss this please get in touch [seagles@henleyschool.com](mailto:seagles@henleyschool.com)

Let battle commence!

**Tickets available after half-term**



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Henley in Arden  
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[www.henleyschool.com](http://www.henleyschool.com)  
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@HenleySchool



## English

Miss Robbins and Mrs Jones, together with Ms Hart and Mrs Carroll, took their English group on a rewards trip to Zizzi's for pizza and to see the new film, 'Till', which links to their previous study of Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes and current topic, the theme of prejudice in literature.

Here is just one piece of the written work students produced which was inspired by the film...

### Film review of 'Till' by Jakub Pudelko

'Till' is the latest blockbuster by director Chinonye Chukwu that retells the tragic story of Emmett Till. Brutally murdered in 1955, his mother vows to fight against the American system which was racist. We can see Emmett Till brutally beaten so much that you can't recognise him. But a true mother will always know her child. In this film we learn what happened to Emmett Till and how his death led to the revolution of equal rights.

One of the best parts was when Emmett's mother started a revolution to start equal rights. This was the best moment in the film because one death led to the revolution of equal rights which was really inspirational.

I rate it 4.7 stars. It's a good and passionate film.



## Educational Visits

We have had several trips heading out of Henley in the last term, giving our students a chance to enhance their learning with real life applications. The English Department have taken a number of trips out – students in Year 9 went on a rewards trip to the cinema and students in KS3 have been to Arden School for an author visit.

On Tuesday 14th February and Wednesday 15th February KS4 History students went to the Palace Theatre in Redditch. They saw Hitler on Trial, The Doctors Show and The Inquisition of Elizabeth 1st to kickstart their revision for their GCSE's.

Year 11 Geography students are completing their GCSE fieldwork on the 13th/14th March – visiting both Stratford-upon-Avon and the Umberlade Estate.

We are continually looking for opportunities to explore life beyond school by taking students on trips, and there are many more planned for the Spring and Summer terms.

Mr Pearson  
Educational Visits Co-ordinator

### Trip Calendar

#### Wednesday 1st March

An Inspector Calls, Coventry Belgrade Theatre (Year 11)

#### Tuesday 7th March

Great Big Dance Off Competition, Birmingham Alexandra Theatre

#### Monday 13th/Tuesday 14th March

GCSE Geography fieldtrips (Year 11)

#### Wednesday 22nd March

Shakespeare Schools Festival, MAC

#### Saturday 25th March—Wednesday 29th March

MFL visit to Chateau du Baffy, Normandy (KS4)

#### Tuesday 28th March

Of Mice and Men, Birmingham Rep (Year 9)

#### Thursday 20th April

Author Visit, Arden School (Year 7)

#### Monday 17th—Wednesday 19th July

PGL Residential Visit, Boreatton Park (Year 7)

## Performing Arts

It has been a busy start to 2023 for the Performing Arts Faculty! Auditions were held in January for our annual musical which this year is Aladdin Jr. We were all so impressed with the quality of performance in all three disciplines (singing, dancing and acting) and also with the dedication shown to learn lines and routines ahead of the auditions.



Every single person who auditioned demonstrated their ability in the Arts and as a result have gained a part in the production.

Rehearsals have begun and students are working brilliantly to learn their dance routines and songs before beginning blocking the acting after half term.

Please ensure you complete the costume measurements and consent form as soon as possible if you have not done so yet.

Thank you for all your support with this, tickets will be on sale after Easter and we can't wait to welcome you to another Henley in Arden production in July!

Sarah Blyth  
Director of Performing Arts

## Dance

### Aladdin Rehearsals

Rehearsals are now underway for our upcoming shows in July. On Monday we learnt how to sing our opening for Arabian Nights. On Tuesday we were 'One Jump Ahead' learning choreography and song for Aladdin's chase in Agrabah's market place.

Please save the date for your diaries:

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Tickets will be on sale after the Easter Holidays.

## Dance Careers Event

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January fifteen of our wonderful Year 8 and 9 students attended the Black Country Dance Careers event at Wolverhampton University.

On the day students had chance to take part in several dance workshops such as a contemporary workshop on femininity, strength and power by Flexus dance company; a commercial street dance from a male teacher at Gloucester university, an afro-caribbean inspired contemporary class by ME dance company and Martha Graham technique from Lincoln University.



They also had opportunity to visit a market-place and speak to different education providers and dance companies on what options are available now and post 16, watch a video and listen to dance artists explain an interesting recent project with deaf people and communities.

We had a fantastic day exploring the wider world of dance, the girls were impeccably behaved and tried so hard in everything they did!

**Mrs Monk**  
**Head of Dance**



## Shakespeare Schools Festival

Midlands Arts Centre

Wednesday 22nd March

Tickets available from [here](#)



## Physical Education

### Cross Country

We were proud of all the Henley runners who competed in the Warwickshire Schools Cross Country Championship held at Princethorpe College.

There should be particular mention for Lois Ford who positioned 10<sup>th</sup> thus qualifying for the National Schools Cross Country Championship.

Congratulations Lois!



### Indoor Athletics



Athletics club has run every Wednesday this year and this has culminated in some excellent results in the recent South Warwickshire Interschool Athletics Competition held at AGS.

We saw particularly good performances from Year 7/8 boys and girls. The Year 8 team did particularly well in achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall!

Congratulations all!

### Football Year 7

The boys were undefeated in their first experience of a small sided tournament. Playing 4 and not conceding a goal, they won 2 and drew 2. The boys played some excellent football with high pressing creating numerous chances. The pupils were managed by Year 11 Sports Captain; Seb Pearsall and Sports Leader; Oli Marriner.



### Football Year 8

Year 8 conducted themselves well throughout the tournament. Keeping 2 clean sheets and drawing with eventual winners Stratford 1-1. Goal of the tournament was from Joe Elvins with a curling effort from halfway.

Other teachers and parents commented how well the boys played against some challenging opponents.



**Mr McDowell**  
**PE Department**

## Report from Year 7 Progress Leader

It seems only a couple of weeks ago we were in Christmas mode but now Valentines has passed and a glance in the supermarket tells us we need to stock up on Hot Cross Buns and Crème Eggs! It really does show how time flies and I'm sure many of you will now see your children starting Year 7 as something of a distant memory!

The year group has made an outstanding start at Henley, and in doing so, has set an incredibly high standard for themselves in engaging with lessons, uniform and behaviour around school. With this, our expectation of the year group is that they now have to maintain it, so we are looking at uniform and equipment checks to make sure the pupils are ready to learn and uphold school expectations. The same goes for the school rules around phones.

We have introduced the weekly Henley Heroes review in tutor groups and assembly – so far Year 7 has placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall bonus points so I'm hoping we can move up the league before half term!

Year 7s have done well in sports and Performing Arts this half term with some good football being played and a number of pupils involved in the auditions and rehearsals for the school show -Aladdin, and our Dance and Drama companies - so a huge well done for the talent and application they are showing.

I spoke to a number of you at Parents' Evening on 9<sup>th</sup> February, and I look forward to reporting on some excellent engagement from the pupils following this event.

If you do need to contact me about any issues or have any questions please do use the email [seagles@henleyschool.com](mailto:seagles@henleyschool.com)

**Mr Eagles**

**Progress Leader Year 7**

## Report from Year 8 and 9 Progress Leader

We have come to the end of another long, yet successful, half term. I am pleased that both year groups have the most bonus points in the school at this point in the year. This goes to show how hard you are all working in lessons, so please keep this up. I am also proud of all students who have represented the school in

extra-curricular activities, trips and talks from visitors this half term. Thank you for your exemplary behaviour and I hope you have gained a lot from these experiences. I hope you all have a restful half term and come back feeling refreshed. After the half term, I would like us to ensure that our uniform meets all expectations and that we work on building up our attendance.

**Miss Fish**

**Progress Leader Year 8 and 9**

## Report from Year 10 and 11 Progress Leader

### Year 10

Year 10 are starting preparations for their summer Work Experience. Work Experience is a fabulous opportunity for students and one which can even end in them being offered summer employment! Students need to be thinking hard about where they would like to do their placement and make sure their forms are given to Ms Jennings by Easter to ensure they don't miss out.

### Year 11

Year 11s are now starting real exams with the countdown to summer really on. With this said, there is lots of fun to look forward to after a hard few months ahead. Prom letters are now out and students have started submitting content for the Yearbook. Payment deadlines for Prom, Yearbook and Hoodies must be met as there will be no extensions.

With all the stress that is coming, all students need to start planning time for both revision and mental wellbeing. I'm sure the next few months will fly by!

**Mrs Banks**

**Progress Leader Year 10 and 11**

## Homework Club

### Before school

Mon 8:20am—8:40am

Tues 8:20am—8:40am

Wed 8:20am—9am

Thurs 8:20am— 8:40am

Fri 8:20am—8:40am

### After school

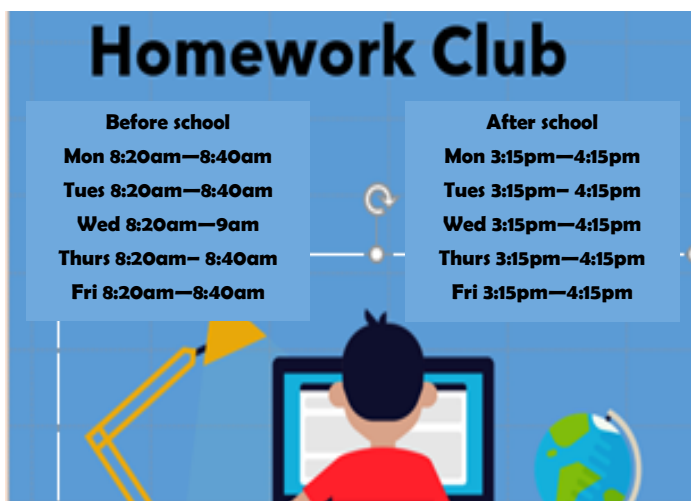
Mon 3:15pm—4:15pm

Tues 3:15pm— 4:15pm

Wed 3:15pm—4:15pm

Thurs 3:15pm—4:15pm

Fri 3:15pm—4:15pm





## Commando Rugby School

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February, thirty Year 9 and thirty Year 10 students were invited to attend an exciting session with two Royal Marine Commandos. David and Liam of the Commando Rugby School were invited in to work with 2 groups of students. During these days, students got to experience activities they wouldn't ordinarily do including survival skills such as building a shelter and lighting a fire.

Students also completed team-building and problem-solving activities, gaining a variety of life skills including leadership skills and resilience.

Although both days were cold (Monday starting off at -5 degrees) and students ended up just a little bit muddy, all involved had a fantastic day and learnt a number of skills they will use both in school and in the wider world.

These students represented the school well with our visitors, with Dave and Liam feeding back that both groups were some of the best they have had!

