



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,
May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

As we make our way to 2023, we often use the opportunity to reflect on the year past. In this term, we have had many students (past and present) attend our in-school Awards Evening, the first in four years. It was a delight to celebrate the achievements of our students, for both their academic and personal milestones.

Performing arts have been busy, with three showcases of their students (and staff!) talent, including our Christmas Showcase that demonstrated the range of musical skills on offer in school, from a traditional choir to a grunge band.

We have also celebrated a range of sporting achievements in and out of school this term, particularly with the fantastic successes of our Year 10 football team.

It has been a delight to end the year with our students and we look forward to welcoming back our families on the 3rd of January 2023.

Mr Roper
Associate Headteacher

Teaching and Learning

Teaching is one of the only jobs where we get 2 new years; as ever a new year brings with it the point to reflect. As I reflect on how Teaching and Learning has developed over my time as both Assistant Head and Deputy Head, it is the pupils who most accurately represent our development.

We have always known we are lucky to work with our pupils, we have had a number of visitors this half term who have commented on just how fantastic they think both their behaviour and engagement has been.

On the 4th November the Senior Student Team accompanied myself and Mr Roper to the Midlands Arts Centre for the first AMAT Student Teaching and Learning Conference.

Attended by all 4 schools, they were tasked with presenting a presentation "What makes our learning fantastic..." All schools proudly

presented the aspects of their learning they hold dear, with each school reflecting their unique contexts.

Our students then worked collaboratively with pupils from other schools to develop a presentation about what could further develop the depth and challenge of their learning in all schools; developing this in 90 mins was quite the feat!

What struck me as I watched our students presenting to the Trustees, Governors, SLTs and fellow students of all schools was just how confident and erudite our pupils were and their ability to work as a team, not only with each other but as a wider AMAT team.

So after a long and busy term I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the pupils on their hard work and the progress they have made.

I wish both the students and yourselves a restful holiday and can't wait to see what 2023 will bring our Henley learning community.

Miss Price
Deputy Headteacher

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER**

Thursday 15th December

Forthcoming dates

www.henleyschool.com

Twitter: @HenleySchool

Tuesday 3rd January
School re-opens at 8.40am

Wednesday 11th January
Flu vaccinations Years 7, 8 and 9

Thursday 19th January
Year 11 Parents' Evening 2

Thursday 9th February
Year 7 Parents' Evening (starts at 4.15pm)

Friday 17th February
School closes for half term

Monday 27th February
Staff Training Day

Tuesday 28th February
School re-opens at 8.40am

Late October, November and December Library Highlights

Halloween

Due to its popularity amongst students, we've expanded our range of horror fiction. Students will now find a whole bookcase filled with tales of gruesome goings on, spooky shenanigans and finger-biting tales (all age appropriate, of course).



October seemed the perfect time of year to help raise awareness of this, so our Halloween display this year was crammed full of spooky fiction, a creepy horned mask, mini pumpkin heads and lots of cobwebs. Can you spot the eight-legged creature that moved in?

National Non-Fiction November



National Non-Fiction November was set up by the Federation of Children's Book Groups as a way to highlight the importance of

information books and to promote reading non-fiction for pleasure. Each year, National Non-Fiction November has a different theme. The theme for 2022 was **Communication**.

Another event to support Non-Fiction November was our school's entry to **Britannica Magazine's national quiz**. A team of four students took part online in the preliminary rounds but, despite answering an impressive number of general knowledge questions correctly, sadly did not make it through to the final. Their commitment to non-fiction reading ahead of the quiz was very impressive!



As part of National Non-Fiction November, our book club students took part in the **School Library Association's Non-Fiction Book Awards**.

They shared and discussed three high-quality, short-listed, non-fiction titles and took part in the final vote. They were very happy to find out that their first choice, *Black Artists Shaping the World*, won first prize overall.

According to a 2022 report from the National Literacy Trust, more than half of children and young people aged 8-18 read non-fiction in their free time. Non-fiction reading is also a great leveller, proving popular regardless of gender and socio-economic background.



Christmas Tree Decorating Competition at St John the Baptist Church



On Friday 2nd December, four student librarians were invited to take part in a Christmas tree decorating competition at St John the Baptist

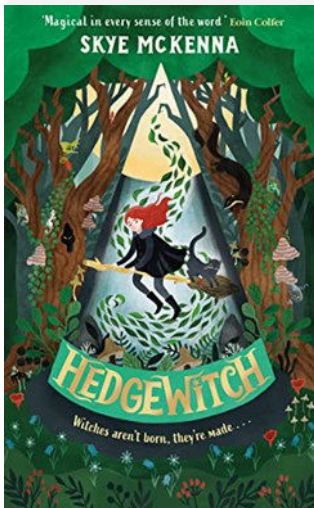
Church in Henley-in-Arden. Several other schools were there taking part too, including a local primary school and a Montessori School. It might seem a little early for some, but there was definitely plenty of Christmas cheer being shared, especially when the hot chocolate appeared!



Mrs Marsh
School Librarian

Mrs Marsh's Book of the Month:

Hedgewitch by Skye McKenna



This enchanting fantasy adventure is the first in a magical five-book series. Suitable for fans of Nevermore, The Worst Witch, and The Dark is Rising, it's brimming with mystery and magic.

It has been seven years since Cassie Morgan last saw her mother. Left at a dreary boarding school, she spends her days

hiding from the school bully and reading forbidden story books about the world of Faerie.

Certain that her mother is still alive, Cassie is determined to find her, whatever the dangers, and runs away from school. Lost and alone, she is chased by a pack of goblins but, to her surprise, escapes with the help of a flying broom and a talking cat named Montague, who takes her to the cosy village of Hedgely.

Here she discovers that she comes from a family of witches, women who protect Britain from the denizens of Faerie, who are all too real and far more frightening than her story books suggest.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Marsh
School Librarian

English News

Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen as this half term's English Stars due to their consistent hard work and positive approach in lessons:

Year 7

Lily Foster, Alfie Cherry, Amy Johnson and Thomas Halford

Year 8

Dexter Turney, Kane Turney, Oliver Pearcey and Isobel Adams

Year 9

Benjamin Colbourne, Jakub Pudelko, Chloe Faulkner and Oscar Gibson

Year 10

Harry Hicken, Star Pattenden, Dan Astheimer and Eluisa de Feo

Year 11

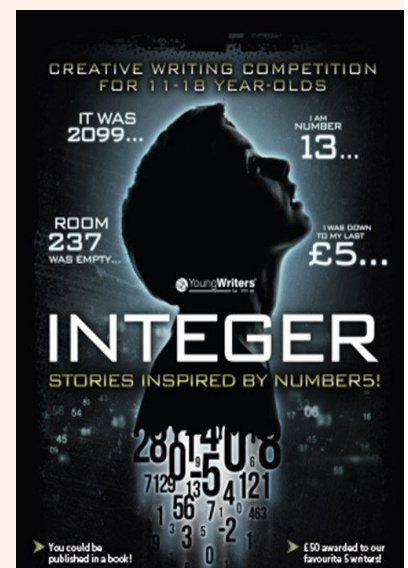
Lucie Klein, Seb Pearsall, Rhiannon Aldred, Emily Fabo, Jacob Batchelor and Annie Venters

Mrs Jones
English Department



English Competitions

The Young Writer's Competition 'Integer' has a closing date of 23rd December. If you have not yet uploaded your entry, please do so as soon as possible. Please see your English Teacher for more details or visit [Integer Stories Inspired by Numbers](#) | [Young Writers](#)



Details of a new competition will be shared with Years 7-9 after Christmas:

Wicked Writers
**CHANGE
FOR GOOD**



WICKED

Mrs Jones
English Department

Remembrance News



Oliver Glover-Waters, Year 8, was awarded Scout's Scout at his 1st Redditch group last year and, as a result, will be accompanying the Mayor of Redditch, Ann Isherwood, on a number of her mayoral visits over the twelve month period of her office.

Oli has attended a number of events already and was present at the Remembrance service in Redditch last month to support the Mayor in laying a wreath.

Year 10 A Christmas Carol at the RSC

On November 7th, a group of students in Year 10 went to the RSC to see A Christmas Carol.

The Year 10 students are currently studying A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens in preparation for the GCSE exams as the text allows students to explore the rich themes of poverty, greed, reformation and redemption, as well as kindness towards others.

Due to Covid, many of these students had not had many opportunities to attend the theatre in this way and for some this experience was a first for them.

The students were brilliant and enjoyed the theatre experience, including an ice-cream in the interval. They enjoyed it so much that they have asked to go to the theatre for all of the texts they are studying!



Miss Hemming
Second in Charge of English

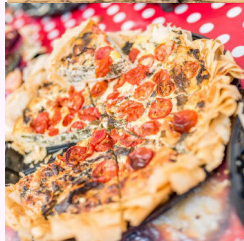
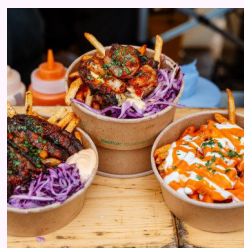
Good Food Show

On Friday 25th November a group of 40 Food Preparation and Nutrition students from Years 9, 10 and 11 visited the BBC Good Food Show at the Birmingham NEC.

There they had the opportunity to sample some new and interesting foods, indulge in some retail therapy, and some were even lucky enough to bump into some celebrities including Great British Bake Off winner Nadia Hussain and Michel Roux Jr.

The group also visited the Super Theatre and saw Nadia share her cooking expertise (as well as break an expensive new piece of equipment!).

A great day was had by staff and pupils, and we look forward to going again in future years!



Mrs Munro
Head of Technology

After School Book Club (Years 7-9)

School Library

3.15pm-4.15pm

Please contact Mrs Marsh for more information at kmarsh@henleyschool.com

Performing Arts

Drama

There has been a buzz of activity in the Acting Department as we have welcomed Miss Mander who has been working in the department this term. As Miss Mander goes to her second placement school in January, we wish her all the very best, and look forward to her positivity and creativity returning to pupil's lessons after the February Half Term.

Rehearsals are in full swing for Julius Caesar which will perform at the MAC in Birmingham in March 2023. The cast are making this a really powerful and clear account of turbulence in ancient Rome.

The Christmas spirit has been rehearsed and was performed in Christmas Everyday, a new short play, as part of the schools Christmas Showcase. The Year 7 & 8 cast have proved themselves talented at revealing the comedy and heart of the short play in roles as diverse as Santa, a Newsreader and a Cat!

On 30th November Year 11 BTEC Actors performed their showcase. This was an outstanding production where a talented group found the apex of their ability both in individual roles and also as an ensemble supporting each other throughout.

Here's to further theatrical adventures in 2023!

Mr Eagles

Head of Department Acting

Dance

Dance Showcase Friday 2nd December

A mixture of students across Years 7-11 performed an exceptionally high standard of performance at the Annual December Dance Showcase. It included pieces from our two dance companies; Force Dance Company, who presented an emotive contemporary piece about supporting people with illnesses, and Inspire Dance company who presented a graceful contemporary piece choreographed by our dance leaders.

We also had an array of emotional contemporary solos from Louisa Gould, Maddie Sands, Ellouise Vaughan and Caroline Russell.

Some dynamic Jazz solos from Sophie Beck and Summer McDowell Year 10 were inspired by Lala Land.

Five of our Inspire dancers; Lola Newell, Erin McCormack, Tabitha Griffiths, Martha Chohan and Elyssia Farrington performed a dynamic contemporary piece choreographed by Ellouise Vaughan and Rhiannon Aldred.

Our Year 10 BTEC class performed a medley from West Side Story as part of their work for Component 1 of their BTEC coursework. We were lead through the opening prologue which sees the two gangs Sharks and Jets showing their rivalry, to keeping it 'cool' in the Jets gang and finally a rendition of 'America' with some Latin styles from Puerto Rico.

Our Year 9 BTEC class also performed a piece inspired by supporting people with their mental health. This was their second performance of the week following their fantastic performance at Awards Evening.

Our wonderful Year 11's performed their examined BTEC work which required them to perform professional dance repertoire exactly from videos. Kirsty Cleaver, Lexi Faulkner, Megan Simpson Molly Elvins and Kelcy Turner performed extracts from 'Into the Hoods' by Zonation, bringing characters to life from the street version of Cinderella. Jude Riley and Celina Hassan performed a contemporary street fusion piece to 'Recovery' by James Arthur exploring the recovery from ill mental health. Christy Pickering and Lilly Highlands performed extracts from Rosas danst Rosas and Rain by famous contemporary choreographer Teresa De Keersmaeker, exploring femininity, strength and freedom.

We also had a beautiful quartet perform 'Missing you' choreographed by Mcgrath exploring contemporary techniques, emotion and a challenge of dancing with blind fold tops throughout.

Finally we finished with a performance of 'Big God' by Rhiannon Aldred and Ellouise Vaughan incorporating the use of scarfs, water and glitter.

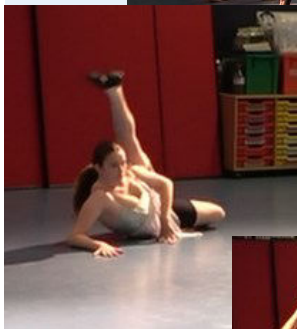
I am so proud of all the students who performed which has been a result of hard work and dedication.

We look forward to the next showcase in the new year.

Laura Monk

Head of Dance

Dance Showcase



Christmas Showcase

On Tuesday 6th December we had so many of our talented performing arts students perform in our annual Christmas Concert which was a sell out show!

The performance opened with our Henley Actors 'Christmas...Everyday' where we saw Santa, The Grinch, Elves and the Grandfather explore Christmas magic.

Henley Voices were next singing some classics Happy Xmas (War is Over) and Silent Night.

We then had an array of talented musicians from pianists, trumpets and even a rock band. Beautiful singing duets from our two Year 11's Jude Riley and Celina Hassan and soloist Ava Clarke.

We were then whisked away by the Snowman dance performed by our Inspire Dance Company who presented elegance and grace in a ballet contemporary piece.

The concert then concluded with a performance from Force Dance Company who rocked around the Christmas tree (and a few kicks to the audience).

A festive evening was had by all and definitely got us in the Christmas mood.



Miss S Blyth
Director of Performing Arts

Physical Education

Basketball

Basketball has proven to be really popular with our Year 7 and 8 boys who have attended their lunch clubs religiously this term. Teams represented Henley at the interschool tournaments held at AGS and did us proud by playing competitively throughout.



Mr P McDowell
Head of PE

Netball

We have had a great turn out weekly at both Year 7 netball training (Tuesdays) and Year 8-11 training (Thursdays) with the girls showing great commitment to improving their individual and game play. It was great to see this success rewarded earlier in the term with our Year 10 team becoming South Warwickshire Tournament winners. We finished the term with festive fun and games as you can see!!!



Mrs S Campton
Assistant Head of PE



The Governors would like to wish all our Trustees, Staff, Parents and Carers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Report from Year 7 Progress Leader

As we approach the end of the first term, I very much want to congratulate Year 7 on an outstanding start to their time at Henley.

Across all the areas of excellence and PRIDE that form the central ideals and purpose of the school, Year 7 pupils have proven themselves well behaved, engaged, smart and focussed as learners. We know, as a staff, that this doesn't happen by accident – so thank you for all your support at home.

Of course, we need to look forward to the New Year in terms both of Auld Lang Syne and Hootenannys, but also that the excellent start will need to be continued as we return to school. With this in mind, might I request a quick equipment check so pupils are prepared ready for January – perhaps Helix or Berol products can be a tempting stocking filler if needed!

I would also like to wish you a Happy Christmas and fun and relaxation in equal measure over the holiday.

Mr Eagles
Progress Leader Year 7

Report from Year 8 and 9 Progress Leader

Well done for a fantastic first term Year 8 and 9! It has been wonderful to see you engage in all of the activities we have had going on in school.

Year 9 enjoyed their first enrichment session of the year and participated well in all of the sessions. I particularly enjoyed your contributions to my session on bullying, kindness, and being an active bystander. They also experienced a performance from Loudmouth about healthy relationships.

Year 8 have also been involved in two sessions from Loudmouth about bullying and healthy relationships; both year groups showed exemplary behaviour in these sessions and participated respectfully.

As part of Kindness Week, the Year 8 girls also participated in an hour-long workshop about healthy friendships and created a kindness pledge that they are going to follow.

Our agents for change came up with the wonderful idea to have a Kindness Bingo and it has been a pleasure to see students displaying small but meaningful acts of kindness towards

each other – I hope this continues! I wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to the start of another successful term in January.

Miss Fish
Progress Leader Year 8 and 9

Report from Year 10 and 11 Progress Leader

This year in both Year 10 and 11 we've had a big push on attendance, focus in lessons and preparation for the Year 11 mocks. 10 of our Year 10s/11s have enjoyed a Costa trip for significantly improved attendance- well done!

All of Year 10 and 11 have enjoyed a thought-provoking drama production on healthy relationships. During Kindness Week our forms have created a people paper chain to represent our community and took part in a Kindness Bingo challenge. It's been a pleasure to shine a light on how kind our students are!

Year 11 are in the full swing of mock exam preparations with a seminar by Elevate, Intervention Evening and in-lesson exam support. They've had a busy few weeks before Christmas, but have shown they have been up to the challenge. Our progress league has been launched for selected students and has built a huge momentum around additional mock preparation.

I hope all our KS4 students have had a fabulous first term of this academic Year and have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

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



Free School Meals

Being eligible for a free school meal clearly has a benefit to the student, namely, a free high quality meal. This saves parents/carers over £400 per year.

Another benefit to the pupil is help with the costs of school enrichment trips. We therefore strongly encourage eligible parents/carers to apply for this status. No one will know who has registered and it will not affect any other benefits being claimed.

You can register your son/daughter for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Applications are made to Warwickshire County Council using the online Free School Meals Application Form

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals/2?documentId=170&categoryId=20008>

by contacting the Free School Meals Team on 01926 742543 or freemeals@warwickshire.gov.uk

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is a fund provided by the Department for Education to enhance the education of students who are deemed to be from a disadvantaged background. It is provided for those students currently in receipt of Free School Meals, or who have been at any point over the past 6 years (FSM6). Looked After Children (CLA) and Children with Parents in the Armed Forces are also eligible to Pupil Premium Funding. Please see the eligibility questionnaire on Schoolcomms.

Debate Club

Debate club is now in full swing this term with some very enthusiastic and wonderful speeches on various debate topics.

So far, we have debated everything from motions such as : 'This house believes that human rights are more important than anything else' to controversial topics such as 'This house believes that physical health is more important than mental health'.

Students have been participating in Balloon Debates and the more formal 'Mace' style competition debate format. Students have been developing their skills as proposition (for) and opposition (against), as well as chairing and judging their own debates.

Any students who are interested in building confidence in public speaking or simply love a good debate, are welcome to join in with debate club on Fridays in F1 at lunch.

Miss Hemming
Second in Charge of English

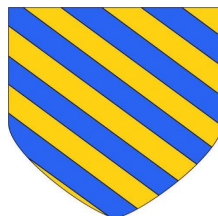
Music Tuition

Would your child like to learn to play a musical instrument?

We are taking applications for music tuition for

- Vocal
- Guitar
- Violin
- Drums
- Piano
- Woodwind

If you would like further information please contact Ms Lewis on slewis@henleyschool.com



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL
Stratford Road
Henley in Arden
B95 6AF
www.henleyschool.com
01564 792364
@HenleySchool



Like us on **Facebook**
Follow us on **twitter**

www.facebook.com/HenleyInArdenSchool
www.twitter.com/HenleySchool



Thank you for your support

Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal



To HENLEY SCHOOL

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised £165.51



Save 20% on a subscription to Britannica Magazine & help your child's school receive £1,000 of FREE books!

Here's all you have to do:

- 1 Visit our website at britannicamagazine.co.uk
- 2 Sign up to an annual or six-month subscription to **Britannica Magazine** - and you will also receive a free hardback Britannica children's book as a sign-up gift. Plus your school will receive a **£10** (annual plan) or **£5** (six-month plan) book voucher to spend on non-fiction books for the school library.
- 3 At the checkout, remember to select your school from the list, to ensure they receive their book vouchers. Then enter the **discount code XMAS20** to claim your special 20% discount.
- 4 Depending on how many parents take advantage of this unique offer, your child's school can receive up to **£1,000 of FREE books!**

Contact: schools@britannicamagazine.co.uk

Your child will receive:



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST



Leaving your home?

Use this handy checklist to ensure it is left safe and secure.

WINDOWS

- ☐ Are your windows closed and locked?
- ☐ Are your window sensors activated?
- ☐ Have you secured your garage and shed windows with locks?

INTERIOR

- ☐ Are your inside lights on a switch timer or smart bulb with timer?
- ☐ Is your home alarm on?
- ☐ Are your valuable items such as jewellery, car keys, laptops, iPads, cash and phones out of sight?
- ☐ Are your chargers and cables for laptops/iPads out of view?
- ☐ Have you created a written and photographic record of any items of value (financial or sentimental)?

NEIGHBOURS

- ☐ If you are going away for a while, have you let your neighbours know?
- ☐ Have you joined your local Neighbourhood Watch group? [Find your local group here.](#)

THINK WIDE(N)

- ▶ **WINDOWS LOCKED**
- ▶ **INTERIOR LIGHTS ON A TIMER**
- ▶ **DOORS DOUBLE OR DEADLOCKED**
- ▶ **EXTERIOR LIGHTS ON A SENSOR**
- ▶ **(NEIGHBOURS) KEEP AN EYE OUT**

DOORS

- ☐ Is your front door double or deadlocked?
- ☐ Are all the doors to your home locked?
- ☐ Are your door keys kept out of sight (but to hand in case of emergency)?

EXTERIOR

- ☐ Are your outside lights on a sensor?
- ☐ Have you cut down tall hedges around the outside of your home?
- ☐ Is all packaging from expensive items i.e. laptops, tablets, phones, games consoles out of sight?
- ☐ Are your vehicles locked and valuables removed?
- ☐ Are your sheds, side gates, garages and outbuildings locked?
- ☐ Are items that can be used to break in, i.e. bricks, rubble, ladders, garden equipment put away?



YOUNG MINDS MATTER CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We are a local charity that provides two mentors to Henley students completely free of charge.

Please support us this Christmas so that we can support even more students in 2023!

Add YMM to your Christmas List!

You can send us a donation using the following details:

Name: Young Minds Matter
Account Number: 48047228
Sort Code: 60-20-41

Please put
XMAS HENLEY
as your reference

Find out more about how your donation will help:
Website: www.ymm.org.uk
[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [@ymmorguk](#)

Can't donate today?

Scan the QR code to sign up to Give as You Live. They will send us a donation every time you shop online at no extra cost to you!

