



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN  
SCHOOL  
*Achieving Excellence Together*



## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, and our Community,

As the nights get lighter and the sun shines brighter, we begin to see students enjoy Henley in Arden School's outdoor spaces more and more. We are lucky to have a plethora of areas for students to enjoy, including for the first term this academic year, a Year 7 only zone, a range of playing fields and areas for basketball and football. We will soon be updating our extra-curricular offer for the summer term and I encourage our students to attend what they can.

It has been a fantastic term at Henley. Students have been attending theatre trips and taken part in various sports competitions. As I write this, students are abroad in France experiencing all that the country's culture has to offer.

We also recently put on Shakespeare's Julius Caesar at the Mac Arts Centre in Cannon Hill Park as part of Shakespeare's School Festival. It was a fantastic performance.

We are refining and improving our behaviour and rewards system this academic year, and will write to you shortly with further information about this over the next term. In the meantime, have a fantastic Easter.

**Mr Roper**  
**Associate Headteacher**

## Teaching and Learning

A lost hour? As the clocks go forward for British Summertime and Spring seems to be doing just that all around, there is much talk of the lost hour. Imagine you were gifted an hour, what would you do with it? This week, in the space of an hour at school, Year 7 had a fun and exciting presentation from the Natural High, some of Year 9 were eating all sorts of delicacies on the languages trip to France, whilst Mrs Williams was winning a Gold medal for a javelin throw at the World Masters Athletics meeting in Torun Poland—it's amazing the range of experiences that are

happening all at once. The end of term signals a time to say goodbye to 2 members of staff, Dr Debney who has been working with us in the DT Department who is moving back to Norfolk, and to Miss Barker in Science who is leaving us after 2 and a half years to go & teach in a Worcestershire Middle School; having worked with her throughout her time with us I have thoroughly appreciated the positivity and commitment she has shown towards our Henley learners. After the Easter holidays we look forward to welcoming Mr B Dolphin as a teacher in the DT Department and Mr J Connell as a Lead Practitioner in Science.

So, as we approach the Easter Holidays, I hope you don't have to imagine gifted time, I hope you get to enjoy time with your family and we look forward to welcoming our Henley Learners back, refreshed and ready for all the Summer Term will bring.

**Miss Price**  
**Deputy Headteacher**

## HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 30th March 2023

**Forthcoming dates**  
**[www.henleyschool.com](http://www.henleyschool.com)**  
**Twitter:** @HenleySchool

Friday 31st March

School closes at normal time for the Easter break

Monday 17th April

School re-opens—Summer Term begins

Thursday 27th April

Year 10 Parents' Evening 2 —starts 4.15pm

Monday 1st May

School closed - May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May

School closed—Coronation of His Majesty the King  
(Bank Holiday)

Friday 26th May

School closes at normal time for May half term

## Library Highlights

### World Book Day 2023

There were so many bookish events on in the library during the week of World Book Day, we decided to hold them over the course of the week rather than on one day. Here are a few of the highlights.

#### Charity Bake Sale

This year, Student Librarians and Literacy Prefects ran a charity bake sale in aid of Read For Good, a charity that sends books and authors into hospitals so that children who are hospitalised for longer periods of time, don't miss out. A grand total of £48.61 was raised.



#### Masked Reader Competition

Congratulations to 7CPE for winning the Masked Reader competition. They were tied with several other forms though in the tie-breaker question, but were the closest

with their guess of 3200 books, which was the closest guess to the 3847 books in the library catalogue. 7CPE enjoyed a box of vintage sweets as their prize. Thank you to everyone who took part.

#### British Science Week

The theme for British Science Week this year was 'Connections'. Innovations in STEM

are all built on connections between people, whether they are in pairs, groups, or as part of research institutions. Evolution, for example, shows us the ways that animals, including humans, plants, and bacteria are all connected in a scientific family tree stretching back millennia. There are connections between humans and climate change and connections between different parts of a human body. There are



connections all around us. Our display to celebrate British Science Week included books from across the curriculum and invited students to see the connections all around us. It also featured notable women in science from diverse backgrounds.

#### Easter Egg Competition

This year's Easter Egg Competition is well underway! Students are invited to borrow a book for the Easter holidays and, with each loan, guess how many eggs are in the jar. With over 50 books borrowed and 50 student guesses made in the last two days alone, this is turning out to be a hugely popular and eggciting competition! The competition will run until the end of the school day on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, with winners announced during tutor time on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Prizes can be collected from the library at break time that same day.



#### Lost or damaged library book charge

There is now an option on School Gateway for parents and carers to pay for a replacement copy of a library book. This should only be used if a student loses or damages a book that has been issued to them. If this charge is due, you will be contacted by the School Librarian via School Comms. At this point, **the student will have received three overdue reminders and not taken action to rectify the situation**, so your co-operation at this point would be greatly appreciated. A second option would be to replace the lost or damaged book with a good quality second-hand copy. It is your child's responsibility to return borrowed library books on time. Your support is appreciated.

Schoolgateway



**Mrs K Marsh**  
School Librarian

## **Mrs Marsh's Book of the Month**

### **Needle by Patrice Lawrence**

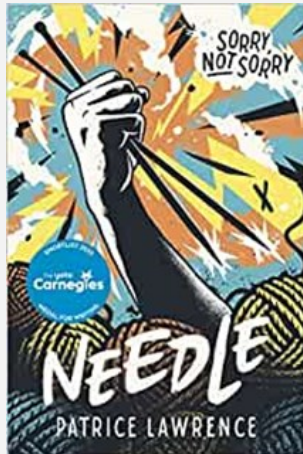
#### **Shortlisted for The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing 2023**

Charlene is a demon knitter. It's the only thing she enjoys and the only thing she believes she's really good at.

So when her foster mum's son destroys her latest creation, Charlene loses it and stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle. It damages a nerve and she gets sucked into the criminal justice system for assault.

Charlene's not sorry and she's never apologised to anyone in her life. But people keep telling her that if she says sorry, they'll go easier on her. Can she bring herself to say it and not mean it when her freedom is at stake?

A powerful and heart-rending exploration of a teenager's journey through grief, rage and getting caught in the criminal justice system from award-winning author Patrice Lawrence.



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

## **Maths Department**

### **Maths Challenge**

For over 20 years the UK Mathematics Trust have been inspiring a love of problem solving through their Maths Challenges. At the start of February, 130 budding mathematicians from Years 9 and 10 took part in the Intermediate Challenge. Out of the 121 pupils that took part we achieved a total of 16 Bronze certificates, 7 Silver certificates and 1 Gold certificate, exceeding last year's results. These pupils are:

#### **Gold Certificate**

Oscar Nicholls

#### **Silver Certificate**

Lauren Heaps, Matthew Dewar, Eluisa De Feo, Edward Jukes, Petro Lovha, Vladyslav Lovha, Georgia Warburton

## **Bronze Certificate**

Emma Burton, Benjamin Cronin, Michael Edginton, Max Lewis, Taha Nauman, Rhys Ramessa, Maddison Sands, Isabella Tornstrand, Vanessa Zabrocka, Dan Astheimer, Lola Britton, Phillippe Downing, Alfie Hall, Kameron Hassan, Henry Mann, Trixie-lee Peach, George Wells.

Congratulations to those who achieved the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards!

And special congratulations to Oscar Nicholls (Yr9) whose result allowed him to qualify for the follow-on round of the challenge.

**Mr Walton**  
**Maths Challenge Co-ordinator**

## **Science Department**

### **STEM Club**

Year 8 and 9 students have been taking part in STEM Club this term, focusing on Forensic Science techniques and how they are used to solve real crimes.

We looked at the use of photography, fingerprinting, shoe impressions, drug testing, chromatography and much more.

On the last week of the programme students gave group presentations about what they have learned.

Congratulations to all of our hard-working and enthusiastic STEM participants this term, as well as to our Year 11 STEM Ambassadors Sean and Emma.

**Mrs Ruddell and Miss Barker**  
**Science Department**

We would like to wish all our pupils and parents a Happy Easter



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A comprehensive review by 111...

**An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestly at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry – 01.03.23**

*'We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other'*

Having finished the longest English mock of our lives we packed our bags and drove by coach to the immensely exciting place that is Coventry: the city of culture. With a song in our hearts, we set off to the theatre to watch the revolutionary Stephen Daldry adaptation of the play - An Inspector Calls. Upon arrival, we were greeted by the welcoming, enthusiastic and charismatic staff of the Belgrade Theatre.

An Inspector Calls (for those of you who don't know the GCSE English Literature curriculum by heart) is about the perpetual cycle of despair that is capitalism. It showcases a family of middle to upper-class people who holistically represent the capitalist side to society. Throughout the play, we are taken through the sequence of events that lead to the death of an innocent, working class girl (Eva Smith). The character of Inspector Goole exposes the ugly truths of the Birling family and their acquaintance Gerald Croft for their culpability in the suicide of Eva Smith. Ultimately, it is a play about social responsibility and remembering the impact we have on those around us.

The play contained a rather interesting set design: a dirty, smoky cobblestone street below the Birling home which is elevated by stilts - visually representing the class divide and hierarchy in the play. An absolute feast for the eyes and senses. Although confusing to begin with, some aspects such as the little boy randomly running around the stage, could have been (on further reflection) an embodiment of the trials of the working class. Unfortunately for those of us sat in the gods we were unable to see almost the entire first scene where the Birling family were inside the undersized house. This was later rectified in the third act where the house exploded and everything inside was destroyed (a representation of the Birling's lives seemingly collapsing before our eyes). The set design was weird but flamboyantly fabulous to see.

Lead with an impressive performance by Liam Brennan as the Inspector, the acting allowed the audience to develop a clear perception of the characters. A special mention to Mrs Birling (Christine Kavanagh) and Eric (George Rowlands) for their enjoyable, engaging performances. The little boy who opened the play despite the raucous audience of secondary school students, also deserves a special mention. Lively stage combat brought the play to life, with everything kicking off between Eric and Mr Birling and Sheila's epic slap to Gerald's face (absolute girl boss). Stand out performances made our classroom reading real.

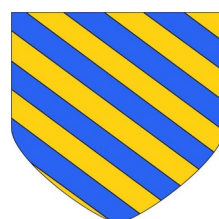
We award the production a gold award for answering our 2 years' worth of Big Questions and providing us with all the knowledge and skills we need to go for gold in our English Literature Paper 2 GCSE.

An utterly life-changing experience had by all lucky enough to attend this completely thrilling trip.



English Department

**Schoolgateway**



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Henley in Arden  
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[www.henleyschool.com](http://www.henleyschool.com)  
01564 792364  
@HenleySchool

## Getting Ready for the Special Olympics!

On Feb 11th, the British Schools Gymnastics Association held their Midlands tumbling & acrobatics regional competition.

Tobias Bishop from Year 7 competed in the under 14 tumbling competition and after achieving the highest score in all 3 of his tumbles obtained a gold medal in his category.



Reuben Bishop from Year 11 competed in the under 18 Disability pairs Acro with his gymnastics Partner Ella from South Birmingham College.

It was a really close competition and just 0.5 points between the top 3 scores and the pair did brilliantly to come 3rd.

With medal winning performances all round they have both secured a place representing Henley School at the National finals in May.



Furthermore, we have just learned that Reuben has qualified to take part in the gymnastics at the Special Olympic Games!!

Congratulations both!

## Educational Visits

### Chateau du Baffy

Hot off the press!

With Mrs Wootton's language visit just returned from Chateau du Baffy in Normandy, here are a few pictures of the group enjoying their time.

Look forward to a full write-up about the visit in the next newsletter...



...just arriving in Honfleur



.....Honfleur Mairie



...those who tried frogs legs and were proud of it!

**Mrs Wootton**  
**Modern Foreign Language**



## Performing Arts

### Music



Congratulations to the Year 11 musicians who performed in their final practical exam on Tuesday 21st March. They were asked to present a 10-15 minute set on the theme of 'Power' to a live audience. It was a fantastic evening and a fitting end to their musical journey at KS4. Well done to Ava, Rhiannon, Jamie, James, Hitesh, Max, Kirsty, Pippa, Ruby, Celina, Jude and Harry.

**Miss Blyth**

**Director of Performing Arts**

### Dance

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we took our talented dancers to compete at the Great Big Dance Off at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham. Force Dance Company and the Year 9 BTEC dance group performed absolutely beautifully with exceptional technique and emotion and it was a joy to watch! Well done to everyone!



**Mrs Monk**

**Head of Dance**

### Drama

Year 11 will take to the stage on 29<sup>th</sup> March for their Showcase production of new devised work based on the theme Truth and Lies. The actors have worked hard through some difficult times and I wish them all the luck with the performance.

### Shakespeare Schools Festival

Huge congratulations to the cast of Julius Caesar who performed at the Shakespeare School Festival held at the Midland Arts Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

The company's dedication and talent across all 5 year groups from the school was inspiring to see and I hope the young actors created memories and stage moments that will stay with them for a long time. I know they will stay with me.



**Mr Eagles**

**Head of Drama**

Now at Henley School  
See advert at the  
end of this newsletter



PQA is a weekend performing arts Academy providing tuition for children and young people from 4-18 years. Students spend three hours with us, rotating through hour-long sessions in Comedy & Drama, Musical Theatre and Film & Television. Students are split into groups according to their age and are taught by specialist expert teachers.

# Meet the Music Tutors

## Victoria Wilson—Vocal

Victoria began singing as a child in local productions and choirs, before attending the prestigious Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, graduating with a BMus(Hons) in Music and a Postgraduate specialising in Opera. She was then privileged to continue her studies in Florence at the Istituto Europeo before returning to the UK and moving to Stratford Upon Avon.

As well as performing regularly with a variety of Opera companies, Victoria has appeared as an english song, melodie, opera and oratorio soloist in Europe, the UK and internationally. She teaches singing locally and has her own very successful Vocal Academy.

Victoria enjoys teaching singing of all genres and believes that singing should be fun, so each lesson is catered towards the students individual needs, to encourage an environment of learning and enjoyment.

She loves inspiring the next generation of singers, and spreading joy through music!



## Lottie Pennington—Drums

Lottie's passion for music started at an early age. At 5 she was playing piano, at 6 the drums. She was so enthusiastic, that by the age of 14 after passing all her drum exams, she started teaching and hasn't looked back.

Lottie studied music in Birmingham and worked as a session drummer in theatre productions.

Her students have enjoyed a 100% success rate in their drum exams with some going on to play in bands of their own. Lottie teaches in schools and local music studios and loves to help others become musically creative.

Lottie also holds a Guinness World Record for the most drummers "Sticking together".

Her musical range and appreciation are considerable, and she loves all kinds of music, especially anything with a great beat and technical complexity.

Since 2020, Lottie has been drumming (and singing) in a well-known local touring and recording band, 'Orange River Remedy', who are enjoying much success and playing some amazing venues. They write and record original songs and play covers from 60s and 70s, have a great following and enjoy touring at weekends.



# Meet the Music Tutors

## **Jenny Pollock—Piano and Woodwind**

Jen's love of music started at an early age in primary school, where even having to endure whole class recorder lessons wasn't enough to dampen her enthusiasm for the subject! She started learning clarinet age 9, and over the next few years added saxophone, piano and flute to the mix too.

She is a Midlander through and through, having been born in Solihull and gaining her Bmus (hons) degree from Birmingham Conservatoire in 2001, where she studied under Janet Hilton, Michael Harris and Colin Parr.

In her playing career, she still actively performs regularly across the Midlands. She is a pit musician playing for musical theatre bands—most notably with the Royal Shakespeare Company— and was lucky enough to perform in Birmingham's Ronnie Scott's jazz venue before it closed down.

Her saxophone quartet Sax Central play for weddings and functions, and she regularly performs orchestral works with the Central England Camerata.

It's safe to say that music is and always has been a fundamental part of her life, and she is passionate about enabling young people to access this wonderful creative outlet to enrich their lives.



## **Pete Hurst—Guitar and Violin**

Pete Hurst is a multi-instrumentalist specialising in string instruments and has over 20 years of playing experience. He specialises in guitar, violin, and bass guitar but also plays ukulele and drums.

He is very active on the gigging circuit, playing in function bands, theatre pits, with his Bruce Springsteen acoustic band and solo shows.

Pete graduated from Coventry University in 2013 with a degree in Music Performance and Professional Practice and has been teaching in schools and privately since 2014.

Pete has a diverse taste in music ranging from Metallica and Stravinsky to Charlie Parker and Billie Eilish.



## Physical Education



Year 9 football team played a home game against Aylesford. The half time score line was 1-1 but the boys dug deep and played as a team to create lots of chances in the second half. The final score was 5-1 win to Henley.



The Year 7 football team drew 1-1 with Kineton at home. It was great to have the full squad together for a competitive game. They have all been attending the Friday after school training sessions and this was clear in their performance up against a strong team. Thank you to our match officials Ollie, Seb and Alex who have recently undertaken their refereeing qualification.



The Year 8 girls football team competed in the

South Warks small sided tournament held at Stratford-Upon-Avon School. They played a series of competitive games and did not concede a goal. They won 2 and drew 3 matches.



Three of our talented Year 8 athletes took part in the Regional Sports Hall Athletics finals. Saffey represented Birmingham and her U13 team qualified for the UK final. Scarlett & Lois competed for the Warwickshire team who were close behind in 2nd place. The other 2 counties taking part were Shropshire & Hereford/Worcestershire.



A massive well done to Lois who competed this month for Warwickshire at the British Inter Counties Cross Country U13 race. The Loughborough course was very heavy under foot and was named 'mud fest'. The event was attended by competitors from the breadth of mainland UK. Ages ranged from seniors all the way down to U13.

**Mr McDowell**  
**Head of PE**

## Report from Year 7 Progress Leader

It has been a really quick half term that now leads us into the two-week Easter break – egg-cellent news for those of you with an early getaway or just looking forward to more light and longer days!

I have been really pleased to see Year 7 continue to apply themselves as a compassionate year group making good academic progress and growing into their place in the school community. I was really pleased with the year group winning the bonus points for two weeks after a hard loss to Year 8 and 9! Let's keep that going Team 7 – a runaway win in the league would be fantastic!

Well done to those Year 7s representing the school in sports and performances – details of Dance and Drama performances are included in this newsletter.

Next term is the final term for Year 7 so a good mindset for progress will be essential on the return to school. Until then, I hope you have a nice time and some good weather.

**Mr Eagles**

**Progress Leader Year 7**

## Report from Year 8 and 9 Progress Leader

Well done all – we are over half way through the year now!

There have been some fantastic successes in the year in terms of our sports teams. Congratulations to those of you that have participated in these and represented the school well.

I am also very proud of all students in both year groups who have participated in performing arts events over this last term.

A select group of Year 9s have also represented the school brilliantly on their trip to France – in particular, well done to those of you who were brave enough to try frogs legs!

Both year groups will have received their recent reports. There is some excellent progress being made by students, and it has been a pleasure to meet with some students and parents in Yr9 to discuss how I can support their progress further. I look forward to speaking to more of you in the months to come. I am

hoping these reports allow you all the opportunity to reflect on where your strengths are at this point in the year and where you need to improve.

I look forward to celebrating all of your hard work with you during the tombola celebrations!

**Miss Fish**

**Progress Leader Year 8 and 9**

## Report from Year 10 and 11 Progress Leader

### Year 10

Mocks may have been delayed but they are not far away! Students are working in lessons to ensure they feel prepared for the first full set of mock exams. At the end of the hard work, we have work experience and a rewards trip which is in the planning!

### Year 11

Would you like to be given two hundred thousand pounds? This is a question our Year 11 pupils have been asking themselves in recent assemblies.

Every subject matters; it's the final push to the finish line! Revision timetables need to be planned for term time and the Easter holidays to ensure we enter the final full half term with confidence.

At the end of exams we have Prom to enjoy... don't forget to purchase your tickets.

**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







# THE HUB'S EASTER EGG HUNT



Find your ticket, keep it safe, bring it to the HUB on Friday 7th April between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. You will be given a free hot chocolate, hot cross bun and your prize egg. Some of the prizes will be larger than others.

The tickets  
hidden in  
publicly  
accessible and  
safe places  
around the town

3rd to 7th April  
2023

There will be  
no need to  
enter private  
land or  
shops



For guidance phone Peter  
07974573582



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

## Battle of the Bards

## Fight for Lights

Saturday 29th April

This is a fundraising event where two members of Henley staff will go head-to-head in ten rounds of Shakespeare—all under the watchful eye of an independent judging panel.

The Battle will take place in the Hall between 3pm-5pm.

Tickets are £5 and all money raised will go towards new lights for the hall.

This promises to be a truly entertaining afternoon

Tickets available on Gateway



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### WEST END SHOWS

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## Mentor Role Description

If you would like to apply to be a YMM mentor, email [eliza@ymm.org.uk](mailto:eliza@ymm.org.uk) for an application form. We can't wait to hear from you!

### **Young Minds Matter (YMM) Mentor Role Definition:**

A YMM Mentor can play a pivotal role in a young person's education. Every mentor is trained to provide support and guidance to young people who are experiencing difficulties due to social, emotional, behavioural, academic or other issues. They provide a listening ear and an impartial, non-judgemental view to a young person's concerns, in a safe space and can help these young people gain self-esteem and belief. They give them the confidence to achieve their goals and often simply offer a guiding hand in developing daily life skills. A YMM mentor is trained to recognise when signposting is needed to any relevant mental health professional services or other support service, such as CAMHS or educational psychologists. A YMM mentor does not purport to be a counsellor, psychotherapist or any other mental health professional, nor do they envisage taking away the role of any these professionals within the school environment; they are there to supplement and work alongside school staff or any other in-house service to support young people.

### **YMM Mentor Job Specification**

- To provide support and guidance to young people who are experiencing difficulties due to social, emotional, behavioural, academic or other issues
- The mentor encourages the mentee to express and discuss their concerns, ideas and understanding of the perceived or actual issues facing them
- The mentor helps the mentee to review their progress and sets realistic and practical options where necessary to realise their goals, or to help them set goals, as well as helping to reflect on and learn from things that did not turn out as expected
- The mentor offers a fresh perspective and an independent, impartial, non-judgemental point of view
- The mentor supports the mentee in raising their aspirations where needed, often becoming a positive role model to the mentee as well as a trusted confidante
- The mentor fosters a spirit of empowerment, self-esteem and confidence in a mentee and helps develop strategies for dealing with both personal and academic challenges
- The mentor will liaise with the relevant school staff and parents/carers where necessary, updating on progress and specific issues
- The mentor will work closely with other professionals where deemed necessary to signpost to other services, such as CAMHS, mental health professionals, educational psychologists etc.



**The general logistics\***

- Mentors are asked to commit one school day a week to mentoring during term time.
- Mentors are fully trained on our bespoke training programme and undergo an enhanced DBS check. We require two professional references. No former training or qualifications are required.
- Commencement of mentoring is based on school demand, so we cannot guarantee that mentors will be placed in schools immediately after training. There may be a wait whilst we identify the best school for you in terms of your skillset and/ or location.
- Ideally, mentors can commit one day a week voluntarily. On occasion, funding is available for certain positions - please indicate your requirements on your application form.
- We aim to be very flexible with our mentors regarding timings, for example if you need to do school drop offs in the morning for your own children, you can start mentoring after that.

\*exact hours, timings, number of mentees, etc, are incredibly school dependent, so we ask for a degree of flexibility from you and an understanding that we don't always have exact answers at this point!