



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN
SCHOOL
Achieving Excellence Together



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,
May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a restful break over the holiday period.

At Henley we are looking forward to refreshing ourselves over the break ready for an exciting 2024.

This term has had too many highlights to mention, however we have ended with our Presentation Evening – awarding Henley students past and present with a range of awards for their effort, outcomes and contributions to Henley. Our guest was an ex-Henley student, Connor Ball from the band The Vamps – who performed a song and spoke to our students about the wonderful impact the school had had on him.

We took our students to the Lionesses game at Wembley for a 3-2 win against the Netherlands, and continue to promote healthy living and teamwork through a variety of sports on offer, and I am very proud of the hard work and determination our Year 11s have demonstrated in their mock exams.

I hope you find time to reflect on your year during this period and I wish you a fantastic break.

Mr Roper
Associate Headteacher

Teaching and Learning

I've often thought that Christmas intensifies and heightens whatever is happening in your life at that time. We will all no doubt watch films over the next 2 weeks which centre around the importance of believing and hope, whether it be Miracle on 34th Street, Polar Express or even Elf.

As teachers, believing in people and their potential, underpins our profession. I was really proud of the school's Senior Students when they recently represented the school at the Arden Multi Academy Trust Student Conference.

The students had worked very hard to produce a presentation on the importance of feedback in their learning. After presenting their findings students were tasked with working collaboratively with students from the other schools to consider how we can make feedback more impactful. In the photo you can see our pupils working together as the Henley Team ready for the afternoon. It was fantastic to see their confidence and self-belief grow.

So, as we head into the Christmas Season I hope you have a really lovely holiday and that those around you give you reason to believe in the power of people.

Miss Price
Deputy
Headteacher



HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER**

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Forthcoming dates
www.henleyschool.com

Thursday 21st December 2023
School breaks up at 3.15pm

Monday 8th January 2024
Term Begins at 8.40am

Thursday 1st February 2024
Year 11 Parents' Evening (invite only)

Thursday 8th February 2024
Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.15pm-7pm

Friday 9th February 2024
School breaks up for half term at 3.15pm

Library Highlights

November/December 2023

AIM High Writing Workshop



Students from Year 8 and Year 9 returned to Arden Academy earlier this term for yet another successful AIM High writing workshop, this time with Karl Nova, who is one of the UK's leading poets and hip-hop artists. Karl has won multiple awards including his debut, which won the 2018 CLIPPA poetry prize. He was also the first ever poet to win the Ruth Rendell Award.



Students were dazzled by his unique, witty, energetic

style and thoroughly enjoyed working with Karl to produce their own poems throughout the day.

Waterstones Trip

One of the highlights of the term for all Student Librarians was a visit to Waterstones in Birmingham to choose books that will help keep our library catalogue up-to-date and relevant to its audience:

Earlier this month, the Student Librarians were taken on a trip to Waterstones in Birmingham. Mrs Westmacott, our Chair of Governors, donated a sum of money to us which allowed us to buy some new books for the library. We left with fifteen bags of books of many genres, topics and authors. This was a very fun opportunity. I am very pleased to have been able to help select some books that we are adding to our library.

Esme, Year 9



School Library Association's Information Book Awards



Earlier in the term, members of our book club were introduced to the books that were shortlisted in the School Library Association's Information Book Awards. Students voted for the title

Medicine: A Magnificently

Illustrated History by Briony Hudson, illustrated by Nick Taylor (Big Picture Press) and their vote was submitted and counted towards the final winning book. Book club students were very pleased to recently find out that they agreed with the judges, who decided that **Medicine: A Magnificently Illustrated History**

should win the Judge's Choice award. Mrs Shipley (Head of History) is also a huge fan, having recently



discovered it on display in the library as part of Nonfiction November, as it covers the topic of medicine, as studied by our history students in a wonderfully accessible and engaging way.

Christmas Tree Decorating Competition



Many schools in the area, including Year 7 Henley students, were recently invited to take part in the annual Christmas tree decorating competition organised by the Church of St John the Baptist on Henley High Street. We didn't win last year, so we have everything crossed for this year!



Mrs Marsh
School Librarian

Mrs Marsh's Book of the Month:

When Our Worlds Collide by Danielle Jawando

An outstandingly powerful coming-of-age novel about chance encounters and how the choices we make create our future. The worlds of three 16 year olds, Chantelle, Jackson and Marc, collide when they witness the stabbing of 14 year-old Shaq outside of a busy shopping centre in Manchester. The three teenagers, from very different walks of life, are unexpectedly brought together when they're the only ones who stop to help. In the aftermath they find themselves turning to each other for support, and develop an unlikely friendship that enables them all to better understand the racism, prejudice, injustice and poverty that are just some of the themes that make this story raw and real, and bring the characters to life in a way that stays with you until the final page.



Farewell

It's been an absolute pleasure and a privilege to be the School Librarian at Henley School. I've loved everything about it, from helping students find their next favourite read, running the after-school book club, choosing books that I think our students will love, supporting with the teaching of reading as a life-long skill, to working with our dedicated student librarians, watching them learn and grow within the library.

I've also been fortunate to work with some of the best colleagues I could wish for. So, it's with sadness that I'm writing the library's contribution to the Henley School newsletter for the last time. The library's next contribution will be written by the new School Librarian, Mrs Daneshyar. I hope she has as much fun being Henley's School Librarian as I have.

Mrs Marsh School Librarian

We wish Mrs Marsh all the very best in her new role.

Poet Tree

Poet Tree is an anthology of beautiful poems written by talented and creative young poets.

Own Books has gathered the poems written by children between the ages of 5-11 years as part of the Poet Tree project.

This lovely booklet has been designed and illustrated by Harriett Ridley in Year 8.



Remembrance

Well done and thank you to Alice Easton for representing Henley last month at the remembrance service in St John's Church, Henley in Arden.



Spanish Vogue

Thrilling to learn that past pupil, Amelia Cook, who now dances as part of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, has recently been

photographed, and included, in an article for Spanish Vogue whilst recently studying dance in Barcelona.



English

Year 7 Charles Dickens Museum Trip



On Wednesday 8th November, a group of Year 7 students travelled to London to the Charles Dickens Museum and former home of the author. Students had a fantastic time on the trip and were able to experience 19th Century London as Dickens had lived, to support their studies of their Charles Dickens Unit on their learning journeys in Year 7 along with a 'Ghosts' workshop based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Students also received a guided tour of Victorian London, learning more about the context of Dickens.

Well done Year 7!

11.5's Great British Quote Off!

On the last day of term before October half-term, Miss Hemming's Year 11 English class took part in the 'Great British Quote Off!' as part of their English rewards lesson for working so hard all term.

Students decorated their own cakes/fruit using edible pens and cake decorations with key quotes from *Romeo and Juliet* and used these to create mindmaps/revision resources to help learn quotes as part of their preparation for their closed book exam on *Romeo and Juliet* for their GCSEs in the summer.

There were some fantastic decorations, and I am really impressed with 11.5's dedication and commitment to their in-class revision.

Well done 11.5!



Miss Hemming
English Department

Young Writers Competition

Congratulations to Charlotte F in Year 8 who recently entered the Young Writers Competition 'Fright Club' for 12-18 year olds.

She was delighted when she learned that her short story called 'The House Around the Corner' was selected and Charlotte is now going to be a published author!

Well done Charlotte!

Head of Year Reports

Head of Year 7 Report

And so, as if by magic, the first term comes to an end! The magic is, of course, a fair bit of hard work on the transition, settling in, getting into, and on with, High School!

Congratulations to Year 7 who have settled well and are now an engaging and animated part of the school. I have enjoyed working with them as Head of Year and seeing their progress and potential growth, from cross country champs, to actors, musicians and dancers, linguists and poets, artists, historians, geographers and mathematicians. Apologies to any subjects not mentioned in that list. Thank you to you at home, too, for all the support with that magic.

Thank you also for the positive emails and calls we have received, these are much appreciated. We believe that the relationship between home, School and learners is something of a Holy Trinity where success is concerned, and it is great to be building that with carers and parents.

I will sign off now, with mince pie crumbs on my keyboard, and wish you all a Happy Christmas, a lovely break with loved ones, and high hopes for a super 2024!

Mr Eagles

Head of Year 7

Head of Year 8 Report

So far this year, Year 8 have had 13,578 positive points - a great effort from everyone!

Included in this, we have celebrated 3 more P6s this half term including; Tobias Bishop for his success in Gymnastics; Harriette Ridley who has had her illustrations published in a book and Charlotte Foss, who has had her story "The House Around The Corner" published as part of the Young Writers Competition.

As we come to the end of term, we will be celebrating all of Year 8's successes in our end of term Tombola Assembly. I am looking forward to celebrating these rewards with them.

I hope you all have a lovely break, and a positive start to 2024. To ensure all of Year 8 have a good start to the new term in January, please ensure they have the correct uniform and all their equipment to prepare them for their learning in the new year.

Mrs Jones

Head of Year 8

Head of Year 9 Report

I am very proud of so many successes across Year 9 this half term. There has been some excellent progress made in lessons and lovely examples of kindness. As well as that, we've celebrated lots of sporting successes both in and outside of school. It is wonderful to see students so committed to extra-curricular clubs and activities.

I hope you all have a restful break over Christmas and come back in the new year feeling prepared to learn. On your return, ensure that you have all the uniform and equipment you need to have a positive start to 2024.

Miss Fish

Head of Year 9

Head of Year 10 Report

Well, well Year 10, what a half term it's been! We've had power cuts, we've had floods; I'm just waiting for the plague of locusts! Throughout what has been a challenging term, I'm so proud of how well you have all coped with unexpected upsets and shown real kindness to each other and members of staff, which has really helped us all to pull through.

Many of you started this academic year with high aspirations to improve on last year, be it academically, in terms of behaviour or in your sporting or other extracurricular endeavours. I have been so impressed at the overall improvements we've seen as a year group, with a total of 8474 praise points compared with only 4548 this time last year. Some of us have had some blips along the way, but what we do on a one-off bad day isn't what defines us: it's who we are day in day out, and how we get back up and carry on after we've fallen down.

Christmas and New Year are for enjoying a restful time with loved ones, but also a time for reflection. Many of you will want to renew the resolutions you made in September when you come back in January, or start some whole new ones.

Just remember: you are young, change is possible, and the little things you change now will have a big impact over time.

Mr Lunn

Head of Year 10

Head of Year Reports

Head of Year 11 Report

Year 11 have had a busy half term of mock exam preparations!

Intervention evening was a fantastic event with over 85% attendance from students and parents. Students came back with a focused attitude and a new motivation which is needed in the run up to mocks.

The final two weeks before Christmas have been hard going for Year 11s but it will all be worth it!

Over Christmas, students need to focus on resting and allowing time to reset before returning for their final full term of secondary education.

Reminder: PROM payment deadline is closing in, don't forget to book your child's place on Gateway.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Banks

Head of Year 11

WhysUp

On 25th October, we had a visit from Mark Murray at WhysUp. He shared his story of addiction with our students in Years 7-10 and how he managed to turn his life around. He shared information on the impacts of vaping and drugs, as well as advice on how to get support for anyone struggling with addiction.

Students had the chance to speak to him at the end of these talks and ask questions throughout. We hope students found this information useful, and we would like to remind them that they can use the WhysUp website and contact them any time if they wish to receive support: www.WhysUp.co.uk. They can also receive support from <https://teen.smokefree.gov>.

We stressed the importance of coming forward and seeking support from staff with vaping if needed, as we have a number of resources available in school. There will be further information about vaping and support available in the next *Working With You* newsletter.



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

To HENLEY ACADEMY

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised £68.56

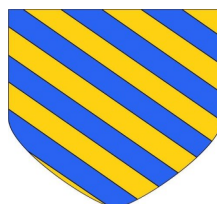


ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



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Performing Arts

Dance

Power Showcase

On Thursday 8th November we held our Power Dance Showcase where many of our talented dancers from Year 7-11 performed a range of dance styles. This event showcased our Year 11's Component 2 exam work where students were required to learn, rehearse and perform, professional repertoire; a challenging task in which our students performed incredibly well.

A trio of 'Single Ladies', brought sass and feminine power to the stage performed by Eleanor McLaughlin, Lola Cobb and Grace Nahor. Another trio brought the essence of Halloween to the stage from the famous Strictly Come Dancing show performed by Caroline Russell, Kristen Hutchings, and Lucinda Laszcz. Summer McDowell performed an emotive contemporary piece to 'No place I'd rather be' from a stunning piece originally performed by one of the next step dancers. A duet going 'Into the Hoods' explored street dance styles inspired by fairytales performed by Sophie Beck and Millie Gray. Our final Year 11 piece was performed by Zoe Bragg and Lauren Heaps in a highly technical contemporary piece to 'Missing You'.

Our wonderful BTEC Year 10 class performed two pieces as part of their exam exploring professional works. Firstly, we took a journey through West Side Story exploring how two gangs fight for their territory and end with a spectacular piece inspired by latin dance in America. The second piece, so contrasting to the first, showed contemporary dance within the theme of electricity, energy and flow within frog experiments, people and our brains, inspired by Motionhouse's 'Charge'.

We also had an array of wonderful solos, duets and a small group piece.

One of our Year 9 dancers Lola Walker performed an emotional yet dynamic contemporary dance.

Some of our Year 7s performed their first Henley solo including Zara Davis and Tilly Parker with some emotive contemporary pieces. We saw a beautiful duet from Maisie Davies and Lucie Summers-Tongue exploring

friendship and a dynamic Irish duet from Daisy Pakeman and Caoimhi Brough with excellent synchronicity.

One of our Year 10 dancers Mollie Haines elegantly glided on pointe for her solo.

We, of course, had performances from our dance companies; Inspire Dance Company performed a sassy Padam inspired by Kylie Minogue. This included taught movement from our wonderful dance leaders Caroline Russell, Kristen Hutchings, Mollie Haines and Maddie Sands as well as some choreography from the Year 7 and 8 dancers.

Our Force Dance Company showed us they were no 'Strangers' to performing with a highly polished contemporary dance showcasing unity, grace and daring contact work.

All of the students worked incredibly hard to put on such a display of talent. We also had a very supportive audience so thank you to everyone for their support and kind donations towards our lighting fund.

We look forward to our next showcase on Thursday 18th April 2024.

Mrs Monk
Head of Dance

Awards Evening

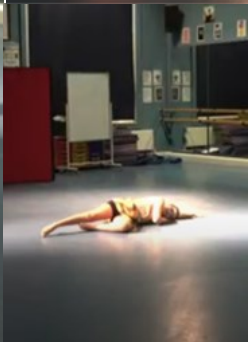
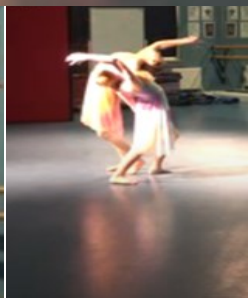
Five of our Year 10s; Neve Wishart, Demi Derry, Mollie Haines, Maddie Sands and Isla Parker performed a beautiful piece 'A Million Dreams' at our school Awards Evening on 30th November.

The piece is mostly choreographed by the dancers themselves and displays how talented they are not only as performers, but choreographers with some elegant synchronicity and contact work.

Well done on such an engaging performance.



Mrs Monk
Head of Dance



Success Stories

One of our wonderful Year 9 dancers Elyssia Farrington has had some great success in the British Freestyle Championships recently. She reached the semi-finals in her fast solos and came 2nd overall in the slow solo. This is such a great achievement and has taken a lot of dedication and hard work to achieve this, so many congratulations to Elyssia.



Caoimhi Brough, Year 7, has had great success in Irish dancing recently within the under 12 preliminary competition, coming 7th on her recent performance in London.

This a great achievement after lots of hard work and rehearsals.

Congratulations Caoimhi.



Drama

This has been a busy half term for the Acting department. On 8th November the Year 11 BTEC actors presented their examination performance for Component 2, this was a fun evening of theatre on the riverbank of *Wind in the Willows*.



A new play, *Conspiracy of Ravens*, has been cast and will be directed by associate artist of the school, Kimberley Bradshaw, from a script by the Head of Acting, Mr. Eagles. This will be performed at the Henley Arts for All Festival next April at The Guild Hall.

The Christmas showcase, *Goldilocks and the Star Wars* will be performed by actors from Year 7-9 at a sharing of dance and drama on Tuesday 19th December at 4pm. Please let Mr Eagles know if you would like a ticket.

New work from Year 11 BTEC actors will be in rehearsal from January, as well as *Hamlet* being performed at the Midland Arts Centre in March as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival Programme 2024.

The bright lights never stop shining!

Mr Eagles
Head of Drama



Physical Education

Netball

Year 8 & 9 were in netball action on Thursday 30th November against Alcester Grammar School. The Year 8 team fought hard showing excellent work through centre court play with AGS coming out winners 9-3.



The Year 9 team went goal for goal for much of the game with their AGS counterparts in a high quality match but again AGS came out winners 7-11.

Football

Year 9 South Warwickshire Football - we were runners up to Stratford. Unbeaten.



Rowing

We took 8 girls to the South Warwickshire Rowing Competition held at Alcester Academy in November.

The girls performed incredibly well and took part in an individual race and a team race.

Our Year 9 team, rowing against some Year 10 teams, came 4th overall out of 8 schools. A totally amazing result, especially as a couple of our girls had never rowed before!

Our Year 8 team worked so hard and put everything they had into it. They showed such determination and finished 7th.

We are very proud of these girls.



Our Year 8 and 10 boys entered the South Warwickshire interschool indoor Rowing Competition held at Alcester Academy. They competed in both team and individual events and scores were collated throughout.

Year 8 placed 5th and Year 10 placed 7th. They showed determination throughout their races against a well-trained and competitive field. For most of them it was their first experience using a rowing machine so they welcomed the new experience



Mrs Smith
PE Department

Wembley Trip to watch the Lionesses



This academic year the PE department has focused on increasing participation in lunchtime and after school clubs, in particular girl's participation. At the beginning of this month, we celebrated with a trip to Wembley to watch the Lionesses playing the Netherlands.





Congratulations to...

Tobias Bishop in Year 8 who competed at the Nottingham Open Championship in Gymnastics achieving 1st place for overall champion, parallel bars and for floor, as well as 2nd place in the vault, 3rd on the rings, 4th on the high bar and 5th for pommel.

Tobias received a P6 for this in school to recognise his success.

Congratulations, Tobias!



PE Kit Reminders

- We are delighted to introduce a warmer unisex PE ¼ zip top to PE kit as well as navy Henley leggings – both can be purchased from the National Schoolwear Centre in Alcester.
- As we are now in the colder months of the year, please can you make sure that your child/ children are wearing their warm PE kit. Black or navy underlayers can be worn as well underneath their PE kit.
- All Year 7, 8 & 9 students need football boots for their lessons on grass. We strongly recommend that shin pads are worn for Football and Hockey. We strongly recommend that mouth guards are worn for Rugby and Hockey lessons.
- Please can we remind you that all kit must be named clearly. We have a growing amount of unnamed lost property items. Any named items left in the changing rooms, will be returned to students.
- PE socks should be either white sport socks or Henley Football socks (no black socks please).
- Henley Football socks should be worn for all Football, Rugby and Hockey lessons.
- All earrings need to be removed. If your child is wanting a new piercing, please wait until the summer holidays when there is time for the holes to heal.
- All jewellery must be taken off for PE lessons - including any friendship bracelets.
- For the Health and Safety of everyone nails must be kept short and smooth.
- If your child cannot take part in PE for whatever reason, please send a note. All students are still expected to get changed for PE so that they are able to help coach, umpire/referee during the lesson.

DONATIONS: We would very much appreciate any old PE kit, trainers or football boots in good condition. We would like to be able to offer a PE Kit Swap Shop to help support parents.

Thank you for your support



**THE GOVERNORS WOULD
LIKE TO THANK MR ROPER &
ALL OUR HARD WORKING
STAFF AND CHILDREN A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

