



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. We have had another eventful and rewarding week at Higham Lane School, filled with wonderful achievements, exciting updates and important reminders that I would like to share with you.

Celebrating Student Success

I am delighted to begin by congratulating Travis, Isaac and Hollie from Year 7, who have excelled in the Art Alternative Masterpiece Homework Competition. Travis took home the gold, Isaac the silver and Hollie the bronze! Their creativity and dedication have really shone through, and their stunning artwork will be on display in the main corridor for all to admire. Well done to these talented students for their hard work and artistic flair!

Additionally, I would like to offer a special mention to Bobbin in Year 9, who achieved a gold medal at the England Wadokai International Open Kata Championships. This is a remarkable accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of Bobbin for showcasing such skill on an international stage. Bobbin's achievement is a reflection of the effort and discipline that we encourage all our students to embody, both in and outside of school.



A Few Important Reminders - Reception and Deliveries

As we work to maintain a smooth and efficient school day, I would like to politely remind parents and carers to avoid bringing in forgotten items unless absolutely necessary. We have noticed an increase in the number of items being dropped off throughout the day, such as water bottles, homework and PE kits. While we understand that these things occasionally happen, the reception team is then required to contact teachers during lessons, which interrupts both the teacher's focus and the learning environment. We ask for your

cooperation in ensuring these interruptions are kept to an absolute minimum. Thank you for your support. In addition, we are pleased to report that the Student Services door has now been fixed. However, we have found that operating one central Reception, rather than two, has worked well and allowed us to better allocate staff resources to support students more effectively. Therefore, we ask that you continue to use the main Reception when you come into school. Students, of course, can still use Student Services when they are on site. Thank you.

New Table Tennis Tables at Lunchtime

On a lighter note, we are pleased to announce the addition of two new table tennis tables to our school grounds! It has been heart-warming to see students enthusiastically organising their own lunchtime competitions, fostering teamwork, friendly rivalry and a fun break from their studies. These tables have quickly become a favourite among our students, and it is fantastic to see them taking the initiative to create their own activities. We have already introduced new basketball nets and small tennis nets along with other sports equipment to complement our extensive extra-curricular programme to enrich the lives of our students at lunchtime.



Supporting Our Community - Charity Work Ahead

At Higham Lane, we believe in the importance of supporting those in need, especially within our local community. I am excited to announce that we will be partnering with local charities, including a food bank and a homeless shelter, to provide support to those who are less fortunate. We will be sharing more information about these initiatives shortly, including how you and your family can get involved. I am confident that our school community will come together in the spirit of generosity and compassion to make a positive impact. Our school vision of 'Be the best that you can be' is underpinned by 3 core values of 'Work hard, Be kind and Take responsibility' and this will be a wonderful opportunity for our amazing students to showcase their kindness and responsibility through this charitable work.

SEND Coffee Morning - A Warm Welcome

A huge thank you to the parents and carers of students with EHCPs who joined us for our SEND coffee morning this week. It was a pleasure meeting with you, and it gave us a valuable opportunity to hear your thoughts and discuss how we can further support your children. Our new SENCO, Ms Taylor, is excited to work closely with you all, and this coffee morning provided a great platform for open and productive conversations. The Headteacher and other key Learning Support Department staff also attended and spoke to parents and carers about how we support our EHCP students. We will continue to offer these sessions to parents and carers of other groups of students as well to ensure strong communication and collaboration between home and school with parents and carers.

Outstanding Academic Achievements - GCSE and A-Level Success

It is with immense pride that I share with you some of the outstanding academic achievements from last year, which were presented at the Central England Academy Trust (CEAT) Trust Board meeting earlier this week.

Progress 8: Our students achieved the best-ever Progress 8 score in the school's history, with a score of +0.62. This means the average Year 11 student last year performed nearly two-thirds of a grade above their expected level in every subject. A remarkable feat!

GCSE English and Maths: 83% of last year's Year 11 cohort achieved a Grade 4 or higher in English and Maths. This is significantly higher than the Warwickshire average of 70%, placing Higham Lane as the highest-performing non-selective state schools in the county!

A-Level Performance: Our Year 13 students also excelled, achieving an impressive 58.5% of A*-B grades, 5.2% above the national average. This represents the best A-Level results the school has ever seen. These outstanding results reflect the dedication and hard work of our students and staff, and I could not be more proud of everyone involved.

We are particularly thrilled to see the Trust Board's glowing feedback on our academic performance. Higham Lane School's reputation for excellence continues to grow, and it's clear that our students are receiving the support they need to excel.

Mental Health Awareness - Supporting Our Students

On Thursday, we observed Mental Health Awareness Day with assemblies led by a mental health professional and our Lead Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Domigan. Mental health is a critical topic, and we are committed to ensuring that our students are equipped with the tools and knowledge they need to maintain their well-being. The assemblies focused on practical strategies for looking after mental health, recognising when to seek help, and ensuring that our students understand the support systems available to them at school. We encourage you to continue these important conversations at home, reinforcing the message that it's okay to ask for help.

A Successful Open Evening

Finally, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the staff, students and parents who contributed to the success of our Open Evening on Thursday. As always, the event was a huge success, showcasing everything that makes Higham Lane School such a special place. Our reputation as a heavily oversubscribed school is a testament to the hard work of our community, and I am immensely grateful for everyone's efforts in making this event so memorable. A special mention goes to Richie and Sofia who are our Head Students who both presented speeches after the Headteacher speech, to around 300 parents and carers; this is a remarkable achievement for someone who is 15 or 16 years of age to have the confidence and oracy to do this. We are very proud of you both, well done Richie and Sofia! Whatever you decide to do in the future, I know you are going to be amazing!

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to the coming weeks, we have many exciting events and initiatives planned. I encourage you to stay tuned for updates on our charity work, upcoming parent events and continued academic achievements. Wishing all our parents, carers, students and staff a restful and relaxing weekend after another busy and productive week here at school.

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher, Higham Lane School

News Item

All Years - Injectable Flu Clinic Vaccine

There is an upcoming local Flu Clinic where the School Immunisation Team will be offering the injectable gelatine-free Flu vaccine.

Please see Poster for date, venue, time and instructions on how to book an appointment.

The School Immunisation Team will also be offering the Injectable at the planned school session, this is just another option for parents/carers who would like an appointment out of school hours.

Any queries or concerns please telephone the Immunisation team on the following number: 02476321550

On behalf of the School Immunisation Team

Dates for your diary

Monday 14 October Governors day
Monday 14 - Friday 18 October Year 11 Careers Practice Interviews
Wednesday 16 October HLNA Open Evening Event (based at HLS)
Thursday 24 October Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 25 October INSET DAY
Monday 28 October Half term holiday begins
Friday 1 November Half term holiday ends
Monday 4 November Autumn term begins



20,780



19,065



19,439