



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are well. It has been a fantastic week here at Higham Lane school. There have been many highlights but I would like to start by saying thank you to the staff who organised the wonderful Year 7 trip to the Royal Shakespeare company (RSC) in Stratford; the students really enjoyed the day at the RSC and we are sure that this will help with their studies as they have now seen the play brought to life.

Ofsted

We are due to receive an inspection from Ofsted before the end of the current academic year (due by July 2025). I wanted to give you an update on Ofsted inspections as a lot has changed since the current government came into power.

Our current Ofsted grading is Outstanding. However, please note that the one word judgement for schools has now been removed by the current government; schools that are inspected now receive a separate grading of Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate in the five key areas of Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Sixth Form but there is no overall single word grade anymore.

At Higham Lane School we know that our students get a good deal, day in day out. We are ambitious with our curriculum and caring and compassionate in the pastoral support we provide. We have high expectations for all and help all students meet them. Being inspected will be an opportunity for us to showcase the outstanding things we do day in day out. The inspection framework is a lot tougher than the framework that was used when HLS was last inspected in 2019. For example, in 2023/24, only 36% of Outstanding schools retained their Outstanding grade at inspection and 64% were downgraded to Good or even lower. However, we will be aiming for Outstanding or at the least Good in all areas.

In terms of GCSE, our GCSE results last year were phenomenal and our amazing Year 11 students gave the school a Progress 8 score of +0.6, meaning that the average student achieved 0.6 of a grade higher than expected in every subject in comparison to students of a similar starting point from Key Stage 2 in primary school. This score puts HLS "well-above" national average with the highest Progress 8 score the school has ever achieved and represents the best GCSE results the school has ever achieved. In the previous school year in 2023/24, our Progress 8 school was +0.56 which was also "well-above" national average so these exceptional results last year were not a one off and these results put the school in a very strong position for a forthcoming inspection.

Our sixth form results are equally impressive and last year 28.3% of all grades were A\* or A and 58.5% of all grades were A\*, A or B. Both of these figures are the best A Level results that the school has ever achieved. The average grade is a B and we have students going to some of the top universities in the country as a result.

In terms of behaviour, we have a strong praise and behaviour policy that rewards our amazing students by allowing them to exchange their hard-earned house points for real rewards in our Praise and Rewards shop. At present, just under 1000 students have zero negative behaviour points, meaning that they have never even forgotten a book or a piece of homework and over half of the school population have more than 100 house points which is incredible! Furthermore, our permanent exclusion and our suspension data is significantly below national average again indicating how good behaviour is here at HLS.

In terms of personal development, we deliver fantastic PSHCE lessons every week and discuss hard hitting topics such as drugs, online safety, grooming et cetera so we can do all we can to keep our students safe. We also have an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, academic opportunities and school trips and visits to enrich the education of our incredible HLS students.

When we receive the phone call from Ofsted, it will be on a Monday and the inspection will take place on a Tuesday and Wednesday. When we receive this phone call, we will write to all parents to inform them of the inspection and to ask them to complete a parental survey. We would really appreciate the support of our parents to complete this survey. It is vital that the inspectors hear about all of the wonderful things that happen here at Higham Lane School; a positive Ofsted inspection will make it much easier for the school to continue to recruit the very best staff as we do at present, which in turn means that your child will continue to get the very best possible teachers and the best education we can provide. Thank you for your support and we will keep you posted when we are contacted by Ofsted.

#### Amazing student achievement

Rebecca in Year 9 filmed this year a programme all about butterflies which was on Sky News and the Sky Kids channel! Here's the link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8H5GoImZ3c&list=PLG8lrydigQfe37ob\\_u7QWldyrpoeYaelc&index=9](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8H5GoImZ3c&list=PLG8lrydigQfe37ob_u7QWldyrpoeYaelc&index=9)

She will also be on the BBC One Show piece with both Rebecca and her sister that will be shown next year! We are so proud of you Rebecca, not just for this, but also for all of your hard work in protecting these precious creatures and our eco-system!

#### No hands on

We are a 'no hands on' school; this means students should not be making physical contact with each other including- pushing in corridors, playfighting, grabbing ties, kicking etc. This is to ensure all students feel safe in school and can prevent an escalation of behaviour.

Please do discuss this with your child to ensure that they respect this rule; this is something that every child will require during their life e.g. in the world of work so it is vital they understand boundaries. We are using our PSHCE and tutor programme to reinforce this message. Thank you for your support as parents and carers.

## Extracurricular activities

At Higham Lane School we believe in educating students as a whole; we offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which are free to all students. With this in mind, we are very excited to launch our new Extra-Curricular booklet for the Spring Term.

Please follow this link which contains some very exciting opportunities for all students to participate in: <https://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/teaching-and-learning-extra-curricular-activities>

In addition, all KS3 students are being encouraged to find and pursue their passion through the Extra Curricular Champion Challenge. All year 7-9 students who attend 3 or more ECAs (3 different or the same) in January will be entered into a raffle to win a 'Golden Ticket'. These tickets can then be exchanged for one item from the HLS Praise and Reward shop including an amazon voucher, football/netball, table tennis set, chess set etc.

The image shows a green 'Extra-Curricular Champion Reward Card' form. It has three rows for recording activities. The first row is labeled 'Activity (e.g. Sports Club)', the second 'Date', and the third 'Teacher Signature'. Each row has three empty boxes for recording data. The 'Date' boxes are pre-filled with '/ 1 / 25'. Below the form, there is a section titled 'How this works' with the following text: 'Students must attend 3 Extra-Curricular clubs in January and record them on this card. Once the Reward Card is completed, hand it to your form tutor by the end of January. You will receive 5 House Points for completing your Reward Card and be entered into the Reward Shop Raffle.'

## School Fundraising Raffle – Seeking Prizes:

Next half term, we will be running a school raffle to raise funds for further improvement to the school playground including more table tennis tables so all years have access to these, more sheltered areas and outdoor football tables. The table tennis tables that we purchased have become so extremely popular with our students! However, we are always looking to do more to provide even better opportunities for our amazing students. To make this fundraiser a success, we are seeking donations for raffle prizes. We kindly ask for your support in reaching out e.g. to employers or any local business you know to seek raffle prize donations. Examples of prizes we are looking for are: gift cards for local or nationwide shops, restaurants, take aways, hotels etc. Tickets to events such as football, rugby match tickets or concerts. If you would like further information, please ask your child speak to Ms Davis (English) or bring your donation to Student Services. Thank you in advance if you are able to support.

Word of the week is... Monotony:

<b>Word Class</b>	<i>Noun</i>
<b>Meaning</b>	1.Lack of variety and interest; tedious repetition and routine
<b>Examples</b>	1.She told jokes to relieve the <b>monotony</b> . 2.The brief storm was a relief from the <b>monotony</b> of the hot summer afternoon.
<b>Synonyms</b>	Tedium, dullness, boredom, repetitiveness, dreariness
<b>Challenge</b>	Use monotony in a conversation this week. Use it in your written work and receive a house point.

Year 9 health questionnaires:

Year 9 are taking part in their annual health Questionnaire with the school nursing team on Tuesday 21st January.

Year 9 Safe Line workshops: 27th and 28th January:

All Year 9 students will be taking part in the second round of Safe Line workshops led by a team of professionals who work for the Safe line charity. The charity provide education around the prevention of all forms of child sexual abuse.

Year 7 Road Safety workshops:

All Year 7 students will be taking part in road safety workshops on 30th or 31st January led by a team of professionals who work for WCC.

Upcoming Competitions:

Warwickshire Cross Country Championship - Saturday 18th January

Y7 girls indoor athletics - Wednesday 29th January

Y8 boys/girls indoor athletics - Tuesday 4th February

Y7/Y8 girls and boys 3x3 basketball - squad 5 boys, 5 girls - Thurs 13th February

Date for your Diary (Y9 only):

Year 9 Curriculum and Options evening will take place on the 13th February

Y13 Trial exams:

Good luck to our Y13 students who are sitting Y13 trial exams this week! The exams appear to have gone very well and so thank you to our amazing Year 13 students for all of their hard work and for your support as parents and carers.

Year 11 Trial Exams:

The year 11 trial exam start on the 27th January and thank you to all of the staff that have given up their time to work for free before school, at lunchtime and after school to run interventions and revision sessions. Please also note that there are independent revision sessions available where students can come to the allocated room at the allocated time and have a quiet space to work independently. Again, thank you to the staff that are giving up their time and their rooms to facilitate this resource for our students.

Attendance:

Bridget Phillipson, the new education secretary, wrote to all headteachers a few days ago and in her letter she talked about attendance being a priority for her as one in five children nationally are still persistently absent, missing a day every other week; she talked about the negative impact this is having on academic progress and the difficulties this is causing for the students when they miss lessons and fall behind and then feel anxious about attending lessons. I would like to personally thank you as our parents and carers for supporting the school and your child and ensuring that your child has excellent attendance. Our attendance currently stands at around 94% which is approximately 2% above national average. Whilst we understand that there are occasions where a child needs to be absent from school, we urge our parents to always send your child into school where you can so that your child can continue to thrive in school and not fall behind. Thank you so much for your support.

Cold weather:

As you will be aware, Warwickshire has been experiencing very cold temperatures this recently, and the temperature has rarely been above zero until the later part of the week. This of course has led to icy conditions and in particular on our local lakes, ponds, and other bodies of water. To help raise awareness of the dangers of ice, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service has created a video on the dangers of venturing on to ice and important information on what to do in an emergency situation. We are sharing this video with you so you can discuss with your child. We will also be showing the video and discussing in school. The video can be found at the following YouTube link and has also been shared on the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Facebook and Instagram pages.

- <https://youtu.be/ijMQi4YLsh8?si=eNOBJ13hyOzV9QMY>

We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing family and get to spend time with your friends and family.

Kind regards,



Michael Gannon  
Headteacher  
Higham Lane School

Year 8 Student Progress Evening - Thursday  
23rd January. 3pm - 7pm. These will be online  
video appointments. Please see details on  
how to book appointments in letter emailed  
home on Wednesday 8th January. Booking  
opens: Wednesday 15th January 6pm.

School will close at 2.15pm on Thursday 23rd  
January due to Year 8 Student Progress  
Evening.



**63,183**



**60,734**



**59,617**

# Year 11 trial exams and revision opportunities

Our extremely dedicated and enthusiastic Year 11s have been working hard to prepare for their upcoming trial exams. They have embraced the revision programme on offer to them which contains over 100 opportunities for them to revise during the school day. On Monday alone this week we had 120 students revising after school in English, Maths and Religion and Worldviews. Please encourage your son/daughter to maintain this momentum as it will serve them well when it comes to their final exams. We have attached a copy of the revision programme so that you can discuss this at home and help them plan which sessions they will attend next week.

In assembly we have been discussing effective exam preparation alongside how to deal with anxiety and tips for wellbeing. Year 11 have been told that Miss Charles, Miss Green and their form tutors are never too busy to make time for them if they need a friendly face and some advice on how to relax, refocus and refresh.

## Revision Sessions 2025

A reminder that every day during tutor time if there is not an assembly going on you are able to do silent revision. Ensure you are bringing something meaningful with you to revise during these sessions so that you are maximising your time to achieve success.

### **MONDAY**

#### **Before School**

Independent Revision Library

#### **Lunchtime:**

Independent Revision Week A and B ME3

Independent Revision Week A and B GY2

Independent Revision Week A and B Library

French Club 11-FR2 Week A LA6

English Literature Week A and B From 12.45 EN2

Food Preparation and Nutrition Week A DT6

#### **After School: (Usually until 4/4:30)**

Religion and Worldviews revision Week A and B Coombe Hall

Maths Foundation Paper Revision Week A and B MA7

Maths Higher Paper Revision (set 1 & 2) Week A and B MA4

Drama Controlled Assessment and Revision Week A and B Meet outside Coombe Hall

Music Support Week A and B MU2

Photography Week A and B AR2

Chemistry Week A SC9

## **TUESDAY**

### **Before School**

Independent Revision Week A and B Library

### **Lunchtime:**

Independent Revision Week A and B ME3

Independent Revision Week B LA2

Independent Revision Week A and B DT7

GCSE PE Revision Week A and B EN2

History Drop In Week A and B Hi2

French Club 11-Fr1 Week B LA6

Art Catch Up Week A and B AR3 and AR4

### **After School:**

Independent revision Week A and B BE2

English Literature Revision Week A and B EN3

Foundation Maths Revision Week A and B MA4

Music Support Week A and B MU1

Engineering Week A and B DT3 and DT4

Computer Science Week A and B IT1

Geography Week A and B GY3

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Before School:**

Independent Revision Week A and B Library

### **Lunchtime:**

Independent Revision Week A and B MA3

Independent Revision Week A and B GY2

Independent Revision Week A and B Hi 3

Art Catch Up Week A and B AR3

### **After School:**

History Revision Week A and B Hi1

Sociology Week A and B ME3

Geography Week A and B GY1

## **THURSDAY**

### **Before School:**

Independent Revision Week A and B Library

### **Lunchtime:**

Independent Revision Week A and B SC8

Independent Revision Week A and B DT7

Independent Revision Week A and B Hi3

Chemistry Week B SC9

### **After School:**

Independent Revision Week A and B BE2

Computer Science Week A and B IT1

Physics Week A and B SC2

Physics Triple Science students Week A and B SC6

Engineering Week A and B DT3 and DT4

Biology Week A SC4

English Language Week A and B EN6

Geography Week A and B GY2

## **FRIDAY**

### **Before School:**

Independent Revision Week A and B Library

### **Lunchtime:**

Independent Revision Week A and B EN2

Independent Revision Week A and B Hi3

Physics Drop In Week A SC2

### **After School:**

Independent Revision Week A and B ME2

Chemistry Week A and B SC7

Photography Week A and B AR2