



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we head into the new month of October, I wanted to take a moment to share some important updates, highlight recent achievements and acknowledge the fantastic efforts of both our students and staff at Higham Lane School.

World Teachers' Day, which is celebrated globally tomorrow (5th October), offers us a special opportunity to recognise the exceptional work of our teaching and non-teaching staff. Every day, I witness our staff's dedication and commitment to supporting our students in achieving their best on a daily basis. Whether it's preparing exciting lessons, running enriching extracurricular activities for free in their own time, or providing the pastoral care that makes such a difference, our staff truly go above and beyond. I want to publicly extend my thanks to them for their tireless efforts, particularly as we continue to strive towards our school's vision of being 'The Best That You Can Be.'



In terms of practical matters, please be reminded that the door to Student Services is currently out of order. We are working diligently to have this issue resolved, but in the meantime, all visitors, including parents bringing their child onto the school site, should report to Reception upon arrival. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we address this situation.

Turning to our wonderful students, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Top 20 students across each year group this week. Their commitment to their studies and their consistent efforts have not gone unnoticed. Furthermore, we now have two students who have already surpassed the impressive milestone of 100 house points! This is an extraordinary achievement so early in the school year and truly reflects their hard work and positive contributions to our school community. Please do encourage your child to reach for the stars and aim to receive as many House Points as possible! We have some amazing prizes in our Praise and Rewards Shop including footballs, Amazon vouchers and 'jump the lunch queue' passes to be earned!

A special thank you goes to our Geography Department, who have organised several successful field trips this past week. These trips provide students with invaluable hands-on learning experiences, and it is thanks to the dedication of our geography staff that these opportunities are possible. We are so fortunate to have such committed staff members who put in the extra effort to make these experiences both educational and enjoyable for our students.

I am also excited to announce that we are currently accepting applications for House Captains. This is an excellent leadership opportunity for students, allowing them to take on a significant role within our school community. We are looking for two captains per house, per year, and I strongly encourage students to apply. The deadline for applications is Monday 7th October. Please discuss this with your child if they are interested in taking on this responsibility and developing their leadership skills.

Our Year 13 A-Level students have had a busy week completing their trial exams, and we wish them the very best with their results. This is a key part of their preparation for the final exams, and I have no doubt that their hard work will pay off. I also want to extend good luck to our Year 11 students who are currently involved in their GCSE Food Investigation Days, which count towards 15% of their final GCSE grade. This is a crucial opportunity for them, and I trust they will excel.

I must also take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that mobile phones are not permitted during the school day. I kindly ask that you do not contact your child via mobile phone during school hours. Should there be any need to reach your child, please contact the school office and we will ensure the message is passed on. Any student seen using their mobile phone on school premises will have it confiscated, and a sanction will be issued. If a student's phone is confiscated twice in one term, it will only be returned to a parent or carer. Your cooperation in upholding these rules is greatly appreciated as it ensures a focused learning environment for all students.

I would also like to congratulate the winners of the European Day of Languages Song Competition. It was wonderful to see so many students engaging with this creative challenge, and I hope the winners enjoyed their well-deserved prizes. Competitions like these are a fun way to enhance language learning, and it was clear that all participants put a great deal of effort into their performances. As a linguist myself and having taught languages for over two decades in different schools, I know first-hand the power of languages and how they can transform lives. Thank you to our amazing MFL department.

At Higham Lane, we take literacy and oracy very seriously as part of our curriculum. Each week, we focus on a 'word of the week' to help expand students' vocabulary and communication skills. This week's word is 'decadent'. I encourage you to incorporate this word into conversations with your child at home, it is a great way to reinforce its usage in both written and spoken contexts.

Extracurricular activities continue to thrive at Higham Lane, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff who give up their time to run various clubs. From sports to creative arts, there is a wide range of activities for students to engage in, including some unique clubs like the highly popular Swifties Club! Participation in these clubs also rewards students with additional house points, so it's a great way for them to earn while having fun. More information about the clubs can be found on our school website.

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We are also looking forward to some exciting trips coming up. The Geography Department has been working hard to plan adventures including the trip to Norway in October, a planned trip to the USA for Years 8 and 9 a visit to the Jurassic Coast for Year 8 in July 2025 and a Year 7 trip to the Eden Project in July 2025. These trips are wonderful opportunities for students to enrich their learning experiences outside of the classroom, and I look forward to hearing all about their adventures.

Congratulations are also in order for all the students who took part in the Warwickshire Schools Cross-Country. These events are an excellent way for students to challenge themselves physically while representing our school. I would also like to congratulate our school football teams for their fantastic performances, particularly the Year 10 Football team, who won 4-2 in the National Cup and the Year 8 team, who secured victory on penalties. Not to be outdone, the Year 7 and Year 8 Girls' teams triumphed 6-1! In netball, our Year 11 team was undefeated, winning the Nuneaton and District Tournament with the Year 10 team finishing second.

We would also like to congratulate Rebecca (pictured below) who was presented with a Mayoral Award by Bill Hancox, the Mayor of Nuneaton, for her amazing work encouraging and nurturing moths and butterflies



Looking ahead, our Year 9 students will be participating in Safe Line Workshops on the 7th and 8th October, led by professionals from the Safe Line charity, focusing on the prevention of child sexual abuse. On Wednesday 9th October, Warwickshire Police will be delivering a workshop on knife crime and safety to Year 10 students, with similar workshops scheduled for all year groups.

Finally, please be aware that Severn Trent Water will be carrying out work on Higham Lane from the 14th October which may impact traffic. The road will be closed from the 14th to the 18th October, with three-way traffic lights from the 21st to the 29th October. Please allow extra time for journeys during this period to ensure that your child arrives safely and on time to school during this essential work by the water company.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend relaxing and recharging with family and friends.

Yours faithfully

Michael Gannon
Headteacher, Higham Lane School



16,448



15,073



15,245

Years 11, 12 and 13

Careers

Princethorpe College Sixth Form Open Evening

SixthForm Open Evening is on Wednesday 16 October 2024, from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. Bookings can be made by scanning the QR code on the poster on the HLS website.

Following the Open Evening, we will host 2 taster days for prospective Sixth Form students on Thursday 12 December 2024 and Tuesday 14 January 2025. These give the students the opportunity to go to lessons in the subjects they are interested in taking, meet and chat with current students and staff, have break and lunch in the Sixth Form Centre and attend an Admissions and Sixth Form Life presentation at the end of the day, to which parents/guardians are also invited.

The deadline for applications is Monday 20 January 2025 and the online registration form can be accessed at this link: [The Princethorpe Foundation- External Sixth Form Registration Form](#)

MTC Open Day - 3 dates

Come along and tour our facilities, chat with our teams and current apprentices, and learn more about carer options with our engineering employer partners. more information available via the MTC Poster on the HLS website.

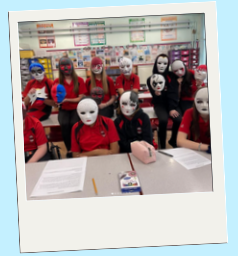
Dates for your diary

Monday 7 – Tuesday 8 October Year 9 Safeline
Thursday 10 October School Open Day (Daytime Tours and Open Evening)
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

Enrichment Days 2024

Year 7

Bosworth Battlefield trip with the History dept
Coombe Abbey trip with the Geography dept
CSI workshop in the Science dept
'France for a day' in the French dept



Year 8

Ghosts and Ghouls in the English dept
Codes and Ciphers in the Maths dept
Winter Sports at Swadlincote with the PE dept
Humanimal - including a Falconry experience



Year 9

Graffiti workshop in the Art dept
Panna Cotta masterclass in Food Preparation and Nutrition
Performance Sports Car Design in Design & Technology
Think Tank trip with the Computer Science dept
Curve theatre trip for a workshop and performance of
Everyone's Talking About Jamie with the Drama dept



Year 10

Highcross Leicester trip with the Business dept
Foot Golf and Golf lessons at Bramcote Driving Range
with the PE dept
Dudley Zoo trip with the Science dept
Team Building experience with the Law and Psychology depts



Please note: details of all these items are on the Able & Ambitious Google Classroom pages and they will also be communicated through Sharepoint where necessary.

Able & Ambitious

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12: Aspire Programme:

- Our final Aspire speaker of the year came in on Thursday 9th May, and he was a great way to finish the programme. Joe Krauth, an ex-HLS Head Boy, spoke brilliantly about how he became a police officer and some of the adventures he's already had in the two years he's been on the force. As always, our students' focus and manners were impeccable and they asked some very searching questions.
- The deadline for getting all 5 Aspire tasks completed and uploaded onto Unifrog is July 5th. All details are on the Aspire Google Classroom page.

Years 7-9:

- Design a Meal for Team GB Competition: Can you design a healthy, balanced meal to fuel a Team GB or Paralympics GB athlete at Paris 2024? Your design could win £1,000 for your school and a family trip to the Olympic Games!

Years 7-10:

- Teach the Teachers: What is the skill or knowledge your child has that others don't? Do they know how to perfectly curl a football? Can they complete a Rubix cube? Do they know which Pokemon types are strong or resistant against other types? Is this something they could teach some members of staff. Fill in the survey on Google Classroom and get involved with teaching the teachers!

Year 8:

- As you may be aware, there is an exciting opportunity to compete in the first ever HLS Y8 French spelling bee.

Years 10 & 11:

- Leicester Uni are running a summer school project for students in Years 10 and 11 to find out what life at University is like.

Years 12 & 13:

- Multiple opportunities and open days at Oxford University.

Ofsted - The Big Listen - we want to hear your views!

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) is carrying out a short survey on behalf of Ofsted. We want to hear from parents/carers of children who are under 18 years old. It should only take around 10 minutes to complete. We are interested in views of, and any experiences with, Ofsted, including Ofsted's inspection, regulation and reporting practices. We really want to hear from a wide range of parents and carers, even if you don't have strong opinions about Ofsted, or haven't had much experience of Ofsted.

Please click on the following link to find out more or take part in the survey:

survey.natcen.ac.uk/TheBigListen

You can look at our Taking Part webpage for more information about the research, and our Privacy Notice for what will happen to any information you give. Links to these webpages are also included in the survey.

Who we are

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) is responsible for carrying out this research with parents and carers. NatCen is Britain's largest social research organisation. We have delivered research for many government, regulatory, and public bodies, and have expertise in carrying out research with the public to inform strategic decision-making in policy and practice. We are a non-profit organisation, independent of government departments and political parties.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the research NatCen is conducting as part of the Big Listen, or have trouble accessing the survey, please contact the research team via email at thebiglisten@natcen.ac.uk.

If you would like to confirm the authenticity of this research please see Ofsted's webpage detailing the two organisations commissioned to help with Ofsted's Big Listen:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen/independent-research-surveys-providers-and-settings>

Thank you so much for your help with this vital independent research as part of the Big Listen.

Kind regards,

The NatCen Big Listen research team



Year 8 trip to Coventry University

On Wednesday we ran a trip to Coventry University for some of our Year 8 students. The event was STEM focused. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths and the idea about the event was that students find out more about careers in these subjects, routes to higher and further education from school, what degrees in STEM look like and how further education establishments, like Coventry University, can assist them in making decisions about potential careers in these areas. We visited the engineering section of the university seeing the Harrier Jump Jet, its simulation areas and students working on designs to improve areas of the plane. We also went to the health and social care section, where we saw student paramedics using their training ambulance and the University Hospital training centre in action, including operating theatres and medical assessment areas. Finally we took part in a CSI Cop workshop, which taught us all about cookies in IT, the dangers and what to look out for with spy wear on our computers.

Year 9 Hate Crime Talks

We ran Hate Crime workshops with our Community Support Officer, Carly, on Tuesday for all Year 9 students. Our aim is to highlight to our students the importance of respecting, tolerating and accepting all people. They learn that Hate Crime is an offence and that it is against the law to target a person because of their race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or transgender identity. The police use a true account of a hate crime against Sophie Lancaster who was attacked by a gang of 5 youths after trying to help her boyfriend who was originally being attacked by them. She was attacked and killed because of the way she looked. When he sentenced the gang, the judge, Anthony Russell QC, said: 'This was a hate crime against completely harmless people who were targeted because their appearance was different.' Sophie Lancaster did not die because of her race, religion or sexuality. She died because she was a goth. The talks are funded in conjunction with Warwickshire Police and The Sophie Lancaster Foundation.

Year 9 Health Questionnaires

Year 9 also completed their Health Needs questionnaire on Monday this week. These are national surveys, delivered by the school nurse team, to explore your child's physical, mental and social health needs. Results will come back directly to the local school nurses who will process the surveys. We, as a school, will also get a copy of the overall results, helping us to plan for future personal development opportunities to support our students health & well being.

Link with Birmingham University

The school was approached by Birmingham University to help with a study around students views on Youth Engagement with Race & Faith in schools. Year 10 students completed this survey on Thursday and we await the results from the University.

Year 10 & 12 Work Experience

We have been really pleased with the take up of places by Year 10 & 12 students for work experience, however, we still have students without a placement. Please can I encourage you to assist your child in finding a place for this important activity, it really does help them in the future if they have experience of a work placement, even if it is a world away from what they actually end up doing. Use your personal and employment networks to secure a placement for your child. Please contact Mrs Green or Mrs Mitchell at the school for any additional support.

New Junior Leadership Team

This week students have had the opportunity to vote for our new Junior Leadership Team. The School's democratic process enables all students to choose who they would like to represent them in these important roles. The video presentations created by our Year 10 candidates for JLT have been so impressive - their confidence and articulation has shone through. We wish all the Year 10 students good luck with their interviews next week. And whatever happens, they have already shown great promise as young leaders for the future with their application process so far.