



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an amazing week here at Higham Lane School, with outstanding behaviour across all year groups and brilliant classwork from our students. I am incredibly proud of how hard everyone has worked and the positive attitude they have displayed.

## Celebrating Our Students' Successes

First, a huge congratulations to Scarlett in Year 8, who competed in equestrian at the 90cm Pony Club Regionals. Scarlett came an impressive 2nd individually and 1st as part of her team, qualifying for the prestigious JCB Pony Club National Championships in August! We are also very proud to say that she represented Atherstone Pony Club at Blenheim Palace today. Well done, Scarlett, we look forward to hearing how you go on.



Another fantastic achievement comes from Jess in Year 11. Jess was awarded 'Best Personality' in her annual dance show with Dance Express, and her acro routine won the 'Best Group Award'! We can't wait to hear about her future successes.



This week, we also ran a KS3 Computer Science House Competition where students were tasked with designing a mascot for Safer Internet Day. We received some fantastic entries! Congratulations to Megan, Bobbin, and Valentina in Year 9 for their winning designs!

A big well done to Harvie in Year 11, who has just been awarded 'Most Improved Boxer' for the 13-18 age category. It is wonderful to see the variety of skills and talents our students have outside of school. Well done Harvie and keep up the excellent work!



### **Trauma Informed Training**

As you may know, all staff at Higham Lane recently participated in Trauma Informed Attachment Awareness School (TIAAS) training. This training was led by educational psychologists and is designed to help staff better support students and de-escalate situations effectively. Mrs Robinson and I were fortunate enough to attend a meeting with the Nuneaton Education Alliance this week, where we listened to Paul Dix speak. Paul, a renowned expert and author in this field, confirmed that our training approach is an excellent route for supporting students, and we've already seen fantastic results from schools across the country.

### **Student Safety Reminder: Helmets for Cyclists**

A reminder to all parents that students who cycle or ride scooters to school must wear helmets. There are still a small number of students who are not complying with this safety rule. If students continue to not wear helmets next week, they will be prohibited from cycling to school. Wearing a helmet is crucial as it significantly reduces the risk of serious injury in case of an accident. We thank you for your support in ensuring the safety of our students.

### **Attendance**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for supporting our high attendance rates, which are currently well-above the national average and have improved even further this year. Good attendance is directly linked to positive academic outcomes, and missing just one day of school can result in a significant amount of lost learning. Your efforts in ensuring your child is attending school regularly and on time are greatly appreciated.

### **Events & Updates**

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Year 12 Information Evening on Wednesday. The event was a great success, and I would like to extend my gratitude to the staff who made it possible. Similarly, Thursday's Year 10 Curriculum and Support Evening was very well attended, and we received excellent feedback from parents and carers. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to organising this valuable event.

A special thank you also goes to the staff involved in our Book Fair this week, which was incredibly popular with our students, and to the team responsible for arranging Year 11 careers interviews. These interviews have been instrumental in helping students make informed decisions about their future paths.

## **OFSTED and the New Inspection Framework**

On Thursday, I attended an important meeting with OFSTED regarding changes to the new inspection framework. Under the new guidelines, there will no longer be a single word to summarise a school's performance. Instead, areas like the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management will each receive individual grades of Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. The inspection will also include Sixth Form provision and safeguarding. Rest assured, we are working diligently to ensure we maintain the high standards you have come to expect from Higham Lane School.

## **Upcoming Events**

Next week, we are excited to host assemblies for all students in celebration of the European Day of Languages. On Thursday, students will participate in various activities to celebrate the many languages spoken within our community.

We also look forward to welcoming parents and carers to the Year 7 'Meet the Tutor' event and the Year 7 and 8 Curriculum Support Evening on Thursday 26th September.

## **Wishing You a Wonderful Weekend**

I hope you and your families have time to relax and enjoy the weekend together after what has been a very busy and successful week. We look forward to seeing all students back in school on Monday, ready for another week of learning and achievement!

Warm regards,



Michael Gannon  
Headteacher, Higham Lane School



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## Engineering apprenticeships

Please find attached advert for upcoming open evenings for students interested in Engineering apprenticeships

## Dates for your diary

Wednesday 25 September Year 11 Personal Development morning

Thursday 26 September Year 7 + 8 - Curriculum & Support Event / Year 7 Meet the Tutor

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