



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been another fantastic week at Higham Lane School, filled with excellent work and exemplary behaviour from our students. Our students' dedication and enthusiasm continue to make us proud, and it's a joy to see their progress and achievements. Our staff and students have worked incredibly hard, and I am very proud as Headteacher!

## Celebrations and Achievements

🎉 **Ameerah (10H2) and Nadiya (8S1) Win Big in Prague!** A huge congratulations to Ameerah for winning the Czech Junior Squash Open 2025 GU15 category! Equally impressive, her sister Nadiya took home the GU13 category title. Well done to both!



📸 **Mitch (9S3) Rising Star in Sports Photography!** Since December 2023, Mitch has been immersing himself in the world of football photography. From covering matches all over the country to photographing for EFL Championship clubs like West Bromwich Albion and Oxford United, EFL League One's Cambridge United and National League clubs like Leamington and Brackley Town, Mitch's journey is nothing short of impressive. He has even had his photographs published in national football newspapers and featured by the FA on their social media! Fantastic work Mitch!



🏈 **Nathan (10L1) Joins the Great Britain 'American Football' Squad!**  
Incredible news: Nathan has earned a place in the Great Britain 'American Football' squad! This is an amazing achievement and we are extremely proud.

## Year 10 Boys National Cup

The Y10 boys football team will be representing our school in the last 32 of the national cup later today. The match, which takes place in Telford, means they will be out of school from break time. Over a thousand schools entered this competition, so making it to the last 32 is a fantastic achievement!

## Year 11 Mock Exams

Our Year 11 mock exams have been in full swing this week. We wish all our Y11 students the very best of luck and hope the first week has gone smoothly. Special thanks to the students who have attended all the revision sessions and to our dedicated staff for giving up their time to provide these additional sessions. Good luck for the remaining exams next week!

## Maths Challenge

Well done to everyone who took part in the Maths Challenge on Wednesday! Your hard work is a testament to your dedication and enthusiasm for mathematics.

## Year 9 SPE

Thank you in advance to all parents and carers who will be attending the Year Nine SPE on Thursday 6th February. It is crucial that home and school work together and provide a united front to support our young people and the SPE is the perfect occasion for school to let our parents and carers know what's going well and where your child can improve.

## Year 10 Computer Science Trip

Best of luck to all the students and staff involved in the Year 10 computer science trip to Coventry University next week.

## Ofsted and Report Cards

We are expecting proposals from Ofsted this week on what they envisage for school report cards that are due to come out for next September and will replace the current Ofsted inspection process. This includes what they will measure and how they will measure it. A full consultation will follow, along with a parallel consultation from the Department for Education on accountability and the role of regional improvement for standards and excellence teams. As soon as we know more, we will let you know as our parents and carers.

## Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is 93.8%. Let's work together to reach our target of 97%. Congratulations to the highest attending tutor groups: 7L1, 8H1, 9S2, 10L2, and 11H1. Special congratulations to 7L1 with 98.9% attendance they win 'Jump the Queue' passes for lunchtime this week. Starting Monday, we are launching a 10-day 100% Attendance Challenge until Friday 7th February. A student with 100% attendance from each year group will win the raffle and receive a 'Golden Ticket,' allowing them to pick any one item from the Reward Shop, including Amazon vouchers, footballs, netballs, table tennis sets, chess sets and more.

## Word of the Week

This week's word is Decrepit. Encourage your child to use this word in their daily conversations.

<b>Word Class</b>	<i>Adjective</i>
<b>Meaning</b>	1. Worn out, weakened or ruined because of old age or neglect.
<b>Examples</b>	1. The house looked run down and <b>decrepit</b> . 2. "Will you look after me when I'm old and <b>decrepit</b> ."
<b>Synonyms</b>	Relating to an object - dilapidated, antiquated, deteriorating. Relating to a person - feeble, infirm, frail, incapacitated.
<b>Challenge</b>	Use decrepit in a conversation this week. Use it in your written work and receive a house point.

## Preloved School Uniform

For families facing financial difficulties, please contact the school and we will be happy to provide free school uniform.

## **E-bikes and E-scooters**

We have noticed that a very small number of students have E-bikes. E bikes are legal on UK roads and therefore as a school, we will allow students to ride to school using an E bike although we will review this approach and if there are accidents or near-misses, then we reserve the right to change our approach and potentially prohibit their use to and from school in order to keep our students safe. Current UK guidance states that riders must be at least 14 years of age and that the motor must have a maximum continuous rated power of 250 W and motor cut-off speed of 15.5 mph. Any students who are below the age of 14 years of age, has a motor with a power greater than 250 W, a motor with no cut-off speed or a motor with a cut-off speed in excess of 15.5 mph are strictly prohibited. The guidance from the government is that whilst E-cycle conversion kits are available, it is recommended to purchase a complete cycle with battery pack and charger from a reputable retailer and not to use a cycle conversion kit as they are often retrofitted by the end user and not designed and not tested for this application meaning that they can be more dangerous. Please note that if an E cycle is modified to exceed the power limit of 250 W or the speed of 15.5 mph, then the bicycle in the UK law becomes an unregistered motorbike which would then be illegal to ride on the road and the user could face a fine and penalty points and the vehicle impounded. We were very closely with Warwickshire police and we ask for your assistance as parents and carers to ensure that your child if they choose to ride an E bike, follow these rules strictly. The school reserve the right to confiscate a bike if we believe that the bike is dangerous, it is being used in a way that does not follow school rules or is potentially being ridden illegally. Please see the following website for more details on e-bikes: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/battery-safety-for-e-cycle-users/battery-safety-for-e-cycle-users>

E scooters are strictly banned by the school and any student is prohibited from travelling to or from school using an E scooter. It is illegal to ride a privately owned scooter on a UK road or pavement. As a result, if a student was to arrive to school on an E scooter, it would be a reasonable assumption but they have not carried it or pushed it all the way to school and that they have therefore ridden on a public highway or pavement which would be illegal. The school cannot condone illegal behaviour and therefore all E scooters are strictly prohibited for all students from year 7 to year 13 and they will not be allowed to be stored on our school site. If a student arrives with an E scooter, the school will confiscate the item and ask for the parent or carer to collect it. We also reserve the right to speak Warwickshire police if necessary. Please see the following guidance on e-scooters: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users> and <https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/advice-escooters/> All students using bicycles, e-bikes or scooters must wear helmets and sign the bicycle agreement with student services. Thank you for your support.

## **Free Online Safety for Parents Workshop**

There is a free Online Safety for Parents Workshop on 19th March at 7.00 pm run by Warwickshire Local Authority. To attend, please sign up using the link below:

[https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_V3LAq70-SBeG5XTbjTotEA](https://smoothwall.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V3LAq70-SBeG5XTbjTotEA)

To find out more, please click on the link below:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAGbhZQ1Bl0/hd4IYYOA\\_CXrP\\_ekyZtPcg/edit?](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGbhZQ1Bl0/hd4IYYOA_CXrP_ekyZtPcg/edit?utm_content=DAGbhZQ1Bl0&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

[utm\\_content=DAGbhZQ1Bl0&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGbhZQ1Bl0/hd4IYYOA_CXrP_ekyZtPcg/edit?utm_content=DAGbhZQ1Bl0&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

## Communication

Please email our Higham Lane School contactus email address (ContactUs@highamlaneschool.co.uk) if you need to contact the school, if you need take your child out of school for any reason or if they will be late. Please do not call as we use the email address saved for contacts who have permission to collect a child, to verify identification to ensure their safety. Please do not text your child in school. Several students have received a Step 2 (detention) recently and had their phone confiscated for using their mobile phone and we have later found out that it was the parent or carer who was calling or texting them. Students are not allowed to use their phones for any reason in school; if there is an emergency, students can be given use of a phone at Student Services and in an emergency parents and carers can contact school and we can speak to the child. Thank you for your support.

Please try to avoid dropping things off during the school day to be passed to your child. In a school of almost 1500, we simply do not have staffing capacity to be dropping things off. On an average day, we may receive 30 requests to drop off a variety of things such as a lunch, PE kit or homework. We then have to interrupt a lesson to drop it off to the child and staff are being taken away from their duties. In exceptional circumstances, please drop something off at Reception. If you are collecting children during the school day, please collect from Student Services.

Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend with family and friends.

Warm regards,



Michael Gannon  
Headteacher  
Higham Lane School

### **Reminder: Year 9 Student Progress**

Evening – Thursday 6th February. 3pm – 7pm. Booking closes: Tuesday 4th February 12pm.

School will close at 2.15pm on Thursday 6th February due to Year 9 Student Progress Evening.



**70,256**



**66,195**



**66,095**

**NWSLC**  
NORTH WIRRECKLE AND SOUTH LESTERS COLLEGE

# OPEN EVENTS



**Wednesday 5th February**  
Wigston and Hinckley Campuses  
4pm - 7pm

**Thursday 6th February**  
Nuneaton and Harrowbrook Campuses  
4pm - 7pm  
MTI Campus | 5pm - 7pm

**Wednesday 25th June**  
Wigston and Hinckley Campuses  
4pm - 7pm

**Thursday 26th June**  
Nuneaton and Harrowbrook  
Campuses | 4pm - 7pm  
MTI Campus | 5pm - 7pm

This year we will also be hosting **Campus Experience Days**  
for students who have applied to NWSLC

Saturday 1st March 2025 from 9.30am - 12 noon at all campuses  
Thursday 26th June 2025 (times to be confirmed) at all campuses

[www.nwslc.ac.uk/openevents](http://www.nwslc.ac.uk/openevents) 0330 058 3000

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 6th February Year 9 Student Progress Evening  
 Thursday 13th February Year 9 Options Evening  
 Friday 14th February Last Day of Term  
 Monday 24th February Back to school after half Term Holiday