



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been an extremely busy but wonderful week at Higham Lane School, filled with excellent behaviour and fantastic learning and teaching. Here are some highlights:

Student Achievements:

- Vincent T: Over the weekend, Vincent competed in the Warwickshire Swimming Championships, representing Nuneaton and Bedworth Swimming Club. He won three medals: bronze in the 100m backstroke and 200m backstroke, and silver in the 1500m freestyle. Congratulations, Vincent!
- Indoor Athletics Success: Our Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys and girls teams won the Nuneaton and District Indoor Athletics Competition. They will now progress to the next round in March, competing against schools from Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull. I have medals to present to them all, please join me in congratulating them!
- Y10 football: well done to our amazing Y10 football team who won their game against Thomas Telford School and have now progressed through to the last 16 of the national football cup! Wow!



Pastoral Stars of the Week:

Well done to all our pastoral stars who have been recognised this week during registration. Your dedication and positive attitude are truly commendable.

Year 9 Sports Leaders:

Our Year 9 sports leaders ran events over three nights, staying until 5:30 pm. They were amazing, and the organiser of the school games was so impressed that he awarded them a Leadership Award (pin badge). Congratulations to these students for their hard work and leadership!

Year 9 Job Taster Sessions:

On Thursday, Year 9 students participated in job taster sessions, including a talk from HLS alumni Amrit, who shared his journey from HLS to becoming a lawyer. The students enjoyed the sessions and gained valuable insights into different careers. We hope these experiences will inspire them as they consider their future paths.

Zones of Regulation:

Following our trauma-informed attachments awareness training (TIAAS), we have been delivering zones of regulation training to all students during tutor time. This training teaches self-regulation techniques, such as breathing exercises, to help students manage their emotions. Thank you to our fantastic tutors for delivering these sessions and to our wonderful students for their positive feedback. This is a key life skill, everyone can get angry sometimes and we can all sometimes regret what we say or do in the heat of the moment so these techniques will hopefully help our students, not just in school, but for the rest of their lives.

Packing the Bag the Night Before:

Please assist your child in packing their bag the night before to ensure they have all required items for the next day, including a fully equipped pencil case, homework and PE kit etc. This helps them be prepared and reduces stress in the morning and again is another further key-life skill.

Netball Competition:

Our house netball competition started this week. Well done to those who participated in Year 7 on Thursday and Year 12 and 13 today.

Here are the scheduled days for each year group for next week:

- Year 10: Tuesday
- Year 8: Wednesday
- Year 9: Thursday
- Year 11: Friday

Good luck to all participants! We look forward to some exciting matches.

Attendance:

Our current whole school attendance is 93.8%. Our target is to return to pre-Covid levels of 97%. Thank you for ensuring your child attends school regularly. Well done to 7S1, 8H1, 9H2, 10S1 and 11L2 for having the highest attendance percentages in their year groups. Congratulations to everyone who completed the 10-day 100% attendance challenge and earned a golden ticket for the prize draw.

Word of the Week:

The word of the week is "catalyst."

Please encourage your child to use this word in their conversations and writing.

Word Class	<i>Noun</i>
Meaning	1.A substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction. 2.An event or person that causes great change, action or activity.
Examples	1.Lime is used as a catalyst in smelting iron. 2.The prime minister's speech acted as a catalyst for debate
Synonyms	1.Enzyme, reactant, synergist. 2.Impetus, stimulus, trigger.
Challenge	Use catalyst in a conversation this week. Use it in your written work and receive a house point.

Trial Exams:

Well done to our Year 11 students for their hard work during their GCSE trial exams. Good luck with next week's exams!

Holocaust Memorial Day:

Two students attended Auschwitz as part of Holocaust Memorial Day. It was a moving experience, and they will now work to increase awareness of the Holocaust at school. This is an important part of our commitment to teaching kindness, tolerance and respect for all.

Searching:

This week there was the tragic news in the press about a student who was stabbed to death in a school in Sheffield. This follows an incident that occurred last year in Wales where a child stabbed two teachers and a child in a school. This is a reminder for parents and carers that the ability to search a child who may be suspected of being in possession of a banned item is one of the key strategies that schools have to ensure the safety of students and staff. UK schools do not need parental permission or the permission from the student to conduct a search and school do not need to wait for a parent to arrive to school to authorise it or witness it. As a school, we follow the department for education guidance on searching screening and confiscation and if we suspect a child is in possession of a prohibited item, I will authorise a search immediately as Headteacher. Thank you for your support.

Responding to Parental Calls and Emails:

We aim to respond to calls and emails as quickly as possible. However, please be patient as staff may be teaching or in meetings, and we have experienced high levels of staff absence due to illness. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

Parking:

Please park considerately in the local community near to the school site and avoid parking on zig-zag lines. This ensures the safety of all our students.

Higham Lane North Academy (HLNA):

As you know, we are part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) called the Central England Academy Trust (CEAT) and we were delighted to be awarded the contract to open a brand-new school called Higham Lane North Academy (HLNA) just up the road on Higham Lane. Mrs Robinson, who was Deputy Headteacher at HLS will be the new Headteacher at the new school. The two schools have been working closely together in our recruitment strategy to benefit both schools and I am delighted to state that we have made some fantastic appointments for next year!

Ofsted:

The government has released some information on what the new Ofsted report card will look like that will replace the current Ofsted inspection framework. In my professional opinion, there are some improvements that will be better than the old system. However, I, along with the trade unions, and many educationalists, am disappointed and I personally feel that this is an opportunity missed. The current inspection framework puts enormous amounts of pressure on school staff and of course we all saw in the press the tragic death of the headteacher Ruth Perry following an inspection. The report that is produced at the end of an inspection at present gives parents limited information about the school and little information is shared with the school about how to improve further other than a small number of bullet points at the end of the document. The new framework appears to do very little to improve the lives of staff in schools and now there will be five judgements rather than four in each of the areas so many educationalists struggle to see how this will reduce the stress that is caused by an inspection that only lasts less than two days but counts for so much for schools. It is also quite possible that the new report card will not necessarily give schools any greater depth of information than it did before in terms of how to improve. We hope that the government will take on board the feedback from the trade unions and will make significant amendments to the proposals. We will keep you posted when we know more.

Marathon Fundraising:

In April Science's Mr Parker will be running not one but two marathons in one month. Brighton Marathon on the 6th April and London Marathon on the 27th April. He is raising money for Young Lives Vs Cancer who are massively supporting one of our former students and their whole family during an ongoing with cancer fight. I am sure you will join me in spurring him on for the miles of winter marathon training and the big challenge in April. He is currently at the end of his eleventh week of prep and has racked up 250 miles so far! If you would like to donate: <https://2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/adam-parker>

Year 9 Curriculum and Options Evening:

- Thursday 13th February, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.
- GCSE Taster lessons: Monday 3rd March – Tuesday 11th March.

The taster lessons will give students the opportunity to see what GCSE lessons are like in different subjects so they can make informed choices.

Half Term:

Reminder: We break up for half term on Friday 14th February and return on Monday 24th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher
Higham Lane School

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th February Year 9 Options Evening

Friday 14th February Last Day of Term

Monday 24th February Back to school after half Term Holiday



74,398



70,097



70,020