



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 2ND MAY 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter holiday. We have had a brilliant first week back in the summer term and it has been amazing to see the students enjoying the sunshine on the field at lunch and using the new sports equipment that we have purchased at break and lunch. The new 'Swing ball' sets have been a big hit! Sorry for the pun!

Year 11

We hope that Year 11 found the Easter revision sessions useful. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our amazing staff who gave up their holidays to offer these sessions and support our Year 11 students in this last final push!

Good luck to our Year 11 French students who took their GCSE French speaking exams this week and good luck to anyone who has them next week! Good luck also to all of Year 11 as they start their full GCSE exams on 8th May (next Thursday) in the Sports Hall and other large venues. All that hard work will now pay off!

As in previous years, Year 11 students will be attending on the day/day before revision sessions for their GCSE exams. A massive thank you to Miss Chater and Miss Charles for coordinating all of this, and to all of the staff who have given their time and planned additional sessions. We hope that our Year 11 students find these sessions useful to recap key information and build upon their revision, in order to maximise their scores in the forthcoming exams.

Student Progress Evenings

Thank you to all of the parents/carers who attended the Year 7 SPE last night. I hope it was a useful experience for you to hear how your child has settled in to Higham Lane, how they are progressing academically, and which areas they can focus on to do even better.

Virtual Reality

We hope that the Year 9 students who are involved in the VR headset sessions enjoy the experience and find it useful.

Weapons and Other Prohibited Items

This week, a 15-year-old boy appeared in court in Sheffield for stabbing another school child to death. Also this week, a 14-year-old girl who stabbed two teachers and a fellow student in a school in Wales was found guilty of attempted murder and was sentenced to 15 years. These are stark reminders that knife crime can happen anywhere, and we must never be complacent.

To ensure the safety of our school community, we will continue to conduct random screening at the gates in the morning using hand-held metal detectors and will search bags and outer clothing. We will also continue to use the powers invested in schools to search a student if we have reasonable grounds to suspect that they may have a weapon or any other banned item. I want to be clear that the school will not call home in advance to inform parents/carers that their child is being searched, nor will we seek permission from home. Schools do not need student or parental consent to search a student; the headteacher and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a student or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the student may have a prohibited item. Safety is paramount. Thank you for your understanding. We must also be clear that if a child is found in possession of a weapon or an illegal substance, it is extremely likely that the school will issue a permanent exclusion, and the student will not be allowed to return to the school. Where appropriate, we will also liaise with external agencies such as Warwickshire Police.

Recording Staff

The school's Praise and Behaviour Policy is absolutely clear that the use of mobile phones or any other devices to make recordings of staff members without consent is a serious breach of privacy and our Praise and Behaviour Policy. Any student found doing so will face sanctions, which may include school suspension and could jeopardise their place at Higham Lane. Please discuss this with your child to ensure that they are aware that they must not record any member of staff or another student without permission, and that doing so will result in very serious consequences. If any such recording is then shared with others, the sanction is likely to be even greater.

Please also note that the school does not consent to parents/carers/visitors recording staff without permission. In the event that this occurs, it is likely that those parents/carers/visitors may be prohibited from accessing the school site, in order to protect staff. The school will also not take into account any information supplied via a secret recording. Depending on the circumstances of how a recording is made or shared, it may also be illegal, and in such cases we would work closely with the police to protect our staff.

Achievements

I am delighted to share some of the recent achievements of our students:

- Congratulations to our Year 7 netball team for winning the league! In fact, we have won all 3 Nuneaton leagues (Years 7-9). Higham Lane School has also won every Nuneaton tournament apart from one in Years 7-9.
- A big well done to Zak W in Year 10, who has just completed his professional stage debut at the Royal Shakespeare Company theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Zak was cast in Edward II, playing the Prince alongside Co-Artistic Director for the RSC, Daniel Evans.
- Well done to the winners and those who received honourable mentions in the Year 7 and 8 Mini World Photography Competition.

Important Reminder

Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday and the school will be closed. We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 6th May. Please note that on Tuesday when we return, Sixth Form students will enter via Shanklin Drive as normal but all students in Years 7 to 11 will enter via the Higham Lane Gate only on Tuesday morning. We will be screening students with a wand and searching bags at random to ensure that our school site is safe for all students and staff.

I wish you all a wonderful 3 day weekend.

Best wishes,



Michael Gannon
Headteacher

**Year 12 Student Progress Evening is on Thursday 15th May
therefore school will finish at 2.15pm on this day.**

Dates for your diary

Monday 5th May 2025 – Bank Holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 14th May 2025 – Year 9 Meningitis Vaccinations
Thursday 15th May 2025 – Year 12 Student Progress Evening
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025 – Half Term Holiday



112,317



106,287



106,486