

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Tuesday, we held our annual Governors' Conference. Governors had lunch with students from Year 10 and then had a tour around the site during lunchtime. They then visited a selection of lessons across a range of subjects on a learning walk before talking to panels of Year 8 and Year 9 students about their experiences of our school. The final part of their day was some training on a range of topics such as preparation for governance in the CEAT MAT which the school is joining, an update on GDPR expectations on schools and our plans for personal development next year. Governors were really impressed by the excellent standard of teaching and learning which they observed during the learning walk and by how articulate, fair and open students were in answering their questions about life at HLS. They also found the training really useful. I'd like to thank them for giving up their time to visit the School.



We also had a visit from two external consultants this week who were looking at our Modern Ethics Department. They were so impressed by the quality of our curriculum, the teaching and learning they saw and how articulate the students were, as well as the excellent relationships between staff and students.

In the last week we have held celebration events for two very special group of students. Last Friday, students from Year 11 assembled at Coombe Abbey for their Prom, all looking stunning in various outfits, having arrived in a wide range of vehicles. The most original to me was seeing a group of lads sitting in a large trailer, towed by a tractor! I didn't envy the driver when he had to reverse into the arrivals area, but it was the last vehicle to arrive so it was fine! It was wonderful for me, as Head, to chat to a number of parents/carers as I prepare to leave HLS. Many of them have had several children go through the School. We enjoyed some reminiscences. After their meal and chatting with staff, the students enjoyed a lovely evening of dancing and a range of awards were given out, including Prom King and Queen. The venue staff pointed out to me that the students' behaviour was exemplary. This came as no surprise.

Last night I attended the Year 13 Leavers' Ball at Weston Hall. The students looked amazing and so grown-up. It was lovely, again, to chat to a few parents and to speak to the students about all they had achieved and their planned next steps. I remember teaching some of them in Year 7! The students had a wonderful evening and the last that staff heard, they were heading off to a night club to finish their celebrations!

We are so proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students and impressed with the way they have coped with all that they have had to face over the last few years. We wish them all every happiness and success and look forward to welcoming many Year 11s into Higham Lane Sixth Form.

Form 9H3 presented a really excellent assembly on healthy eating to their year group this week. Their tutor, Mr Coughlin, pointed out that they had worked very independently and effectively in small groups, planning and researching their content. It is wonderful to see our students taking such a lead in helping to further educate their peers.

Have you bought your tickets for our school musical, Bugsy, yet? It's on Monday to Wednesday next week and will be superb by all accounts!

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and that sports fans enjoy Wimbledon and the British Grand Prix.

Best wishes,

Headteacher



33,868



33,981



32,448

