

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th March 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,



It has been a bit of a strange couple of days for me to end this week as governors have been choosing my successor! It has been a pleasure to welcome the candidates to our school and introduce them to the students, staff and governors. I have told the applicants what a pleasure and privilege it has been to be Headteacher of this wonderful school and what a special place it is to work, with such fantastic students, superb staff and supportive parents and carers.

Our governors have ensured that the selection process has been incredibly thorough, with candidates taking part in a wide range of activities: presenting an assembly; student progress data analysis; finance analysis; a roleplay exercise; an interview with students; interviews with governors (including parent governors), senior leaders and middle leaders on a wide range of subjects; informally meeting students on the playground at lunchtime; a presentation to staff followed by questions and a further presentation on their vision for Higham Lane and their strategy for achieving this, followed by further questions. The process ends with a lengthy final interview. It is a challenging couple of days, just as it should be for such an important role.

Several students and staff have kindly asked me how I am feeling at this time. I have replied that I am fine and very relaxed as I don't have to take part in any of the aforementioned activities! Governors did draw on my experience to help with the design of the selection process though, which I was very happy to offer. David Buckle, our Chair of Governors, will inform students, parents/carers and staff of the outcome as soon as possible.

I know we are all deeply-shocked when we watch the reports from Ukraine each day. As a 57-year-old, I find myself in disbelief at times when I contemplate what is happening in a place not too far from the UK. (And I remember feeling anxious about the Cold War at times in my early teens and 9-11 in my mid-thirties). I then consider what it must be like for our young people as they try to make sense of what is happening in Ukraine. I want to reassure you that we will continue to work hard as a school to educate our students about what is taking place, but also to try to keep them calm and reassure them as best we can. One thing that really helps at such times is the feeling that we can try to assist those in most need. We were absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of our families and staff in the donations you kindly sent in for the refugees from Ukraine. These were carefully sorted into categories and our Estates Team took great pleasure in delivering them to the distribution centre in Hinckley. Hopefully you will have seen our messages and photos on social media about this. So, once again, Higham Lane students, families and staff are making a difference and supporting others. Thank you.

I sometimes end these pieces with reference to my beloved football team. Perhaps that is not such a good idea at the moment. A couple of students have asked me whether I will be making a bid to buy Chelsea FC. I have pointed out that I am not quite in that league, but perhaps I could put in a joint bid with our former Assistant Headteacher, and fellow Chelsea fan, Mr Evans.

I hope you have a pleasant weekend and some quality time with your family and friends and the rugby union fans amongst you get the results you are looking for.

Best wishes,

Headteacher



21,124



20,996



20,243

BULLETIN BOARD

Year 8 - Options Deadline - Reminder

The Year 8 Options forms went live on Tuesday 8th March. The deadline for returning the form is Monday 14th March (end of the day).

Year 8 HPV 1 Vaccinations

These will take place on Wednesday 13th July 2022 and Thursday 14th July 2022.

Year 9 - HPV 2 Vaccinations. These will take place on Monday 11th July 2022 and Tuesday 12th July 2022.

Year 11 - Last week we launched revision strategy sessions during form time for our year 11 students. Each student was provided with their own copy of How to Revise for GCSE: Study Skills & Planner – CGP book to aid their exam preparation. This includes a link inside the front cover to gain access to online resources. The students are participating in activities lead by their form tutor on Mindmaps, flow charts, Memory techniques, revision cards, topic checklists, revision timetables and 'Eat, sleep, stay well'. This gives them a chance to revisit strategies, plan their time, manage their stress and feel confident and prepared.

Once all the sessions have been completed, they will be able to bring their book home and use it in the run up to their final examinations. They will also be able to revisit the sessions and activities via their year 11 Google classroom account.

Jayne Ayliff
Learning Mentor

Year 11 and 13 - Student guide to exams and formal assessments

As you are aware, arrangements for exams and assessments are a little different this year from other years when exams have gone ahead. This is to take account of the disruption to education caused by the pandemic.

Ofqual have produced a useful guide which explains what is in place to support Year 11 and Year 13 students in taking exams and assessments, and provides other information about this year's arrangements. The guide can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-guide-to-exams-and-formal-assessments-in-2021-to-2022/student-guide-to-exams-and-formal-assessments-in-2021-to-2022>

Year 10 and 12 - Step by Step Guide to Finding a Work Experience Placement:

A Step by Step Guide – Students & Parents

1. <https://www.highamlaneschool.co.uk/workexperience>
2. Watch the Power Point Presentation & read through the Parent Information Booklet
3. Find your own Work Experience Placement – use all possible networks. Support available from Mrs Mitchell
4. Complete the Work Experience Placement Form & return it to Mrs Mitchell at school by Friday 1st April. Complete & submit online or print off & return to Mrs Mitchell
5. Complete an EV4 form & return to Mrs Mitchell by Friday 1st April. This form is on the school website for you to download & complete or ask your child to get one from Student Services

Once your forms have been sent into school, **Mrs Mitchell will then contact your employers and send them all the relevant information they need. You do not need to do anything else.**

Health & Safety checks will be completed by school within a 35mile radius of the school free of charge.

If your placement is over 35miles away, checks will be completed by an external company and the cost of this will be passed onto parents/carers. If you are receipt of pupil Premium, a contribution of £30 will go towards this from school and you will need to pay the rest yourself.

If you have any questions or queries please contact Mrs Mitchell at school.

Work Experience

11th -15th July 2022

A Step by Step guide for Parents/Carers



Please note: details of all these items are on the Able & Ambitious Google Classroom pages and they will also be communicated through Sharepoint where necessary. All competition entrants will be awarded House Points for entering as well as prizes for the winners.

All Years:

- The first winner of our monthly Top House Points Winner went to Vienna in Y13 who wins a family ticket to watch Nuneaton Borough FC. Thank you so much to the Boro' for generously donating this fantastic prize.
- The winners of our Lego design and build competition were: Logan (Y8) and Amy (Y9) who both won a £10 voucher and Thomas (Y13) who won a £30 voucher. Their designs to meet the brief 'Hope for the Future' were inspirational!
- The National Pi Day Competition (sadly, nothing to do with steak & kidney!) has been launched by the Maths Department in which students and staff have been challenged to memorise as many digits of pi as they can. Some brilliant pi-related prizes are on offer for the winners so get memorising.
- Every student in the school from Y7-13 has now been surveyed to find out what prizes they would most like to earn with their House Points. The results are currently being collated and, once we have them, we will begin to formalise the prizes to really motivate ALL students to collect House Points and, ultimately, raise standards across all aspects of the school even higher.

Year 8 and 9:

The teams to represent both year groups in the Fashion Design competition have been chosen. The actual competition, in which the teams have to create an original garment out of recycled materials, takes place on March 31st. Good luck to all entrants!

Year 11-13:

Details of the Warwick Economics Summit were released for any student interested in a career in this fascinating field.

Year 12:

Students have been invited to attend an A Levels Bootcamp which takes place at Warwick University over Easter.

Year 12 and 13:

Funding for studying Maths is now available to successful Sixth Form students.



Nuneaton Borough are kindly offering a family ticket to one of their games every month to the top House Points winner! The top winner in each year is entered into a draw and then one name is chosen at random.

Don't forget - all of our **Careers and Apprenticeship** information can be found on our website!
[Click here](#) to view more information on a variety of exciting opportunities!

Dates for your diary

- Monday 14th & Tuesday 15th March - All Year 9 HPV 2 Vaccine
- Year 12 Trial Exams Week, Year 8 Options Deadline
- Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th March - All Year 8 HPV 2 Vaccine
- Monday 21st March - Year 11 Trial Exam Week
- Thursday 24th March - Year 10 Student Progress Evening
- Monday 28th March - Year 11 Trial Exam Week
- Saturday 2nd April & Sunday 3rd April - Duke of Edinburgh Silver & Bronze Training Weekend
- Monday 4th April - Year 11 Trial Exam Week
- Thursday 7th April - Year 13 Student Progress Evening
- Friday 8th April - Easter Holidays Start
- Monday 25th April - Inset Day
- Tuesday 26th April - Students Return to School
- Year 9 Exams

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Luckiest Kid in the World by Danny Wallace

What if you suddenly had everything you'd ever dreamed of? That's exactly what happens to Joe Smith in this hilarious, brand-new comedy adventure.

Joe Smith is average in every way. He is average height. He lives in an average town, on an average street, in an average house, with a very average family. But when a survey identifies him as the most average kid in the country - well that makes him very special indeed.

Suddenly, everyone wants Joe to test out their latest products. Overnight he is sent mountains of gifts - the best trainers, the coolest bike, the most exciting new tech, the latest flavours of ice cream - and so much more. He gets special cinema screenings and the entire water park all to himself. Joe now has everything he could possibly want in the world - and that's far from average. But is going from zero to hero all it's cracked up to be?

This brilliantly warm-hearted, laugh-out-loud family adventure will leave you thinking about friendship, family and why everyone is special just the way they are.

More books with characters who "have it all"

