



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families have had a good week.

You will no doubt be aware by now of the planned strike action by teaching staff who are members of the National Education Union (NEU). For schools in the West Midlands, these strikes will take place on 1st February, 1st March, 15th March and 16th March. A second teaching union, the NASUWT, is planning to re-ballot its members shortly on industrial action.

As you can imagine, this is an extremely complex situation for schools to manage and we are still working through our plans for these strike days. If a decision is made to bring only certain year groups into school on these dates, then priority will be given to our exam year groups, and in particular for our students in years 11 & 13 along with the children of critical workers and vulnerable students. Any internal examinations will still run for these year groups if they were due to take place on strike days. No decision has been made yet on whether we will be fully open or only open to certain year groups. We will update you on our plans at the end of next week. Thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

We have recently introduced 'a spotlight on' where we encourage students and staff to pay particular attention to one aspect of being a member of the Higham Lane School community. With the start of a new term, for the first two weeks our spotlight was on personal appearance and particularly uniform and jewellery to ensure that students returned to school appropriately dressed. Whilst we will keep monitoring uniform and jewellery, our focus has shifted to manners and politeness for the current two weeks. We are encouraging students to greet staff when they see them in the corridors and thank them at the end of their lessons. Likewise, staff are modelling the same manners and politeness that they expect from their students.

You may be aware from stories in the press or from your own personal experience that there is a growing trend amongst teenagers to take up vaping. We remind our students regularly that vaping is not only illegal for anyone under 18, but research also shows how damaging and dangerous it is. Research has shown that:-

- The use of e-cigarettes is unsafe for kids, teens, and young adults.
- Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive.
- E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine.
- Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future.
- Nicotine can harm the developing adolescent brain. The brain keeps developing until about age 25.
- Using nicotine in adolescence can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.
- Each time a new memory is created or a new skill is learned, stronger connections – or synapses – are built between brain cells. Young people's brains build synapses faster than adult brains. Nicotine changes the way these synapses are formed.
- Using nicotine in adolescence may also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs.

I know that as parents/carers that you will also be reinforcing these messages at home. The law surrounding vapes and vaping is there to protect young people. If students are found vaping/in possession of a vape at school, they can expect a serious sanction and you will of course be informed of this.

We were so pleased to receive an email from our team of exam invigilators at the end of the Year 10 internal exam period commenting on the superb behaviour and conduct of our Year 10 students in the exams. Well done to our Year 10s for their mature attitude which has enabled them all to achieve their best in these exams. Teachers are looking forward now to giving feedback which will help students to celebrate their strengths and to work on areas for improvement. Thank you to all parents/carers for the continued support of your children who have completed these exams – we appreciate that it can be an anxious time for them.

This really is a very busy time for exams! With Year 10s now complete, our Year 13 students begin their last set of A Level trial exams on Monday for the next two weeks. Mr Ladha has been very impressed with the work ethic and approach that Year 13s have shown. We wish them all the best with these examinations where results and feedback will be so timely and mean so much as they approach their final revision for their A Level exams in the summer period.

Year 11 students are also in the midst of final assessments and exams. Over the last two weeks, the GCSE Engineering groups have completed their practical assessments – Mr Temple and the Technology Department have been blown away with how committed the students have been to achieve their best. And on Monday the Food practical assessments begin. Students have been spending time after school with our Food Teachers, Mrs Betteridge and Miss Mackey, rehearsing their dishes! This is fantastic commitment! Teachers always look forward to the Food practical assessments where we are able to go along and taste-test the dishes! It really is Higham Lane's very own Masterchef and Bake-Off combined and SLT have their forks at the ready! Please do follow the school on social media to see what some of our Year 11s will produce next week!

It was wonderful to see an enthusiastic group of Year 11s making their way over to the Sixth Form Centre after school yesterday for an A-level Maths taster lesson. Other A-level subjects are offering these taster lessons to support the Year 11s in making their A-level choices. The remaining sessions are outlined later in this newsletter. Please encourage your son/daughter to take part in these sessions as they are good preparation for A-level.

This week Year 8s attended their first assembly on the Options process. Mrs Robinson explained what the process would mean for them and how they should engage with every opportunity over the next few weeks in order to make the right option choices for them. We know that you as parents/carers will also support your son/daughter through discussions at home and by attending our Curriculum and Options Evening on Thursday 16th February. Over the next two weeks Subject Leaders from each option subject will talk to Year 8s in assemblies about what their subject can offer them. In addition to this, Year 8s will take part in a Job Taster day on Thursday 2nd February alongside exploring options and careers in their Personal Development lessons and discuss this further with their form tutors. Our dedicated area on the website to the Options process will go live next week and students will also receive their information booklet which you will be able to look at together at home. I know that you share the view alongside us of how important it is for your son/daughter to make the absolutely right choices for them at this crucial stage in their education.

We have recently updated our list of extra curricular activities to coincide with the start of a new term. Please spend a few minutes looking through the following pages in this newsletter to see what's on offer. The latest information on extra curricular activities is always available under the Teaching and Learning section of the School website. Thank you to our staff for giving up their time to offer these activities.

Thank you to the vast majority of students who arrive at school on time every day. We still, however, have a number of students who do not arrive in time for line ups which is where our important messages for the day ahead are announced. If you are at home when your son/daughter leaves for school, please support them in leaving the house in plenty of time to arrive in school by 8.35am, ready for the 8.40am bell for lineups. If you are dropping them by car, please support your son/daughter in arriving at school on time by allowing time for traffic. Thank you for your support with ensuring that your son/daughter arrives on time for school.

In sports news, our Sixth Form netballers beat Twycross School 36-12 and our Year 9 netballers won 29-1 against Etone. Sadly our Year 11 netballers lost 16-28 to Southam and Year 8 lost 25-7 against Twycross. In basketball, a Year 7/Year 8 3 x 3 mixed basketball team competed in the School Games basketball competition. They played with a great attitude and got better with each game. They lost 3, drew 2 and won 1 game.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that Miss Hemmings has recently been promoted to the role of temporary Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Attendance here within the School which she will be undertaking until the end of the academic year. We are delighted that Mr Morris, one of our current Progress Leaders with many years' experience of leading a year group through Key Stage 4 at Higham Lane, will be taking over from Miss Hemmings. This will be with effect from Monday (23rd January). I am sure you will join me in wishing both Miss Hemmings and Mr Morris every success in their new roles.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,



Acting Headteacher

Bulletin board

WHOLE SCHOOL (more information can be found on our website)

Nuneaton Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair:

Friday 10th February 2023, 10am-2pm

Jubilee Centre, Greenmoor Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 7EZ

Event is hosted by Marcus Jones MP and supported by Department for Work & Pensions

YEAR 11:

Sixth Form Subject Experience sessions:

Our sixth form subject teachers invite you to experience and find out about the subjects offered at sixth form. All workshops will be held at the sixth form centre.

Computer Science 12th January 2023 SF06 3.15 to 3.45pm and Maths 19th January 2023 SF10 3.15 to 4.00pm

Further Maths 19th January 2023 SF10 3.15 to 4.00pm

History 31st January 2023 SF Conference room

French 10th February 2023 SF19 3.15 to 4.00pm

Health and Social Care 6th March 2023 SF04 3.15 to 3.45pm

Law 6th March 2023 SF Conference room 3.15 to 3.45pm

Criminology 6th March 2023 SF Conference room 3.15 to 3.45pm

Economics 15th March 2023 SF14 3.15 to 3.45pm

PE 16th March 2023 SF15 3.15 to 4.00pm

Business 22nd March 2023 SF06 and SF07 3.15 to 3.45pm

Psychology 22nd March 2023 SF Conference room 3.15 to 3.45pm

Media Studies 22nd March 2023 SF05 3.15 to 3.45pm

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Art, English Literature and English Language will be offer sixth form subject experience sessions in lessons. Geography will continue to offer these during Year 11 revision sessions in SF16.

Dates for your diary

23rd January 2023

Flu Vaccinations (Year 7-9)

2nd February 2023

Year 8 Job Taster Day

9th February 2023

Year 8 Student Progress Evening

16th February 2023

Year 8 Options Evening

20th - 24th February 2023

Half term week



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!

Higham Lane School - Extra-Curricular 2022-23

Across these pages, I am confident that you will find a wide range of activities. For any queries regarding the contents of this booklet, please contact Mrs Watson (Student Leadership & Extra-Curricular Coordinator) in the first instance. All sessions after school will usually finish between 4:00-4:30pm. For any exceptions, teachers will communicate this to students.

MONDAY

Before School/Lunchtime:

Homework Club (BEFORE)	All Years	Library
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After School: (Usually until 4/4:30)

History Film Club	Years 8 and 9	HI1
History Revision	Year 11	HI1
Religion and Worldviews Revision	Year 11	Coombe
English Revision	Year 11	Various EN
Science Homework Club	All Years	SC9
Chemistry Support	Year 13	SFC
Orchestra	All Years	MU1
Netball	Year 7	Playground
Football	Year 7	Front Field
Geography	Year 11	GY2
Computer Science Revision	Year 11	IT1
iMedia Coursework Catch Up	Year 11	IT2
Homework Club	All Years	Library
Music Course Work Catch up	Year 11	MU2
Physics Revision (Week A)	Year 13	SC5
Photography GCSE (Miss Ivens' class)	Year 9-11	AR2
Art GCSE (Miss Holt's class)	Year 11	AR4
CNAT Coursework Support	Year 11	MA1

TUESDAY

Before School/Lunchtime:

Homework Club (BEFORE)	All Years	Library
Debating Club (LUNCH)	Sixth Form	SF02
Multi-Sports (LUNCH)	Year 8	Gym

After School:

Languages Support	Year 11	LA1,2,3
History Revision	Year 11	HI1
Maths Support (11Ma1 Students Only)	Year 11	MA7
Maths Support: Higher	Year 11	MA1
Chemistry Support	Year 11	SC9
Music Coursework	Year 11	MU1
Computer Science Intervention	Year 11	IT2

Drama Club/School Production Rehearsal	All Years	Coombe/MU1
GCSE Badminton	GCSE PE Students	Sports Hall
Netball	Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form	Playground
CNAT Coursework Support	CNAT Students	TBC
Geography	Year 11	GY4
Homework Club	All Years	Library
Maths Drop In	Sixth Form	SF04
Art/Photography Coursework Support	Year 11	Art
English Literature	Year 11	English
French Revision	Year 11	LA2/3
German Grade Booster (Mainly Tuesdays see GC or LA1 for details)	Year 11	LA1
Photography GCSE (Mrs Moran's class)	Year 10	AR3/1
Art GCSE (Mrs Moran's Class)	Year 10-11	AR3/1
CNAT Coursework Support	Year 11	MA1

WEDNESDAY

Before School/Lunchtime:

Homework Club (BEFORE)	All Years	Library
Boxing Club (BEFORE)	All Years	Sports Hall
Maths Support: Foundation (LUNCH)	Year 11	MA1
Computer Science Support (LUNCH)	Year 11	IT1

After School:

Sociology Revision	Year 11	ME3
Music Coursework and Revision	Year 11	MU1
Netball	Year 9	Playground
Football	Year 9	Front Field
Football	Year 8	Front Field
Dance	All Years	Gym
Homework Club	All Years	Library
Drama Group Rehearsal/Coursework	Year 11	See teacher
Catch Up		
Chess Club	All Years	Sixth Form
		Conference
		Centre
CNAT Coursework Support	Year 11	MA1

THURSDAY

Before School/Lunchtime:

Homework Club (BEFORE)	All Years	Library
Netball Shooting Practice (BEFORE)	All Years	Sports Hall
Creative Writing Club (LUNCH)	Years 7 and 8	Various EN
Physics Revision (Week B) (LUNCH)	Year 11	SC2
Netball (LUNCH)	Year 11 and Sixth Form	Sports Hall
Creative Writing Club (LUNCH)	KS3	EN6
GCSE PE Revision (LUNCH)	Year 11	MA1

After School:

History Revision	Year 11	HI1
Biology Revision (Week B)	Year 11	Science
Physics Revision - Combined (Week A)	Year 11	SC2
GCSE Drama	KS4	Coombe Hall
Computer Science	Year 11	IT1
Netball	Year 8	Playground
Geography	Year 11	GY3
Homework Club	All Years	Library
Computer Science Revision	Year 11	IT2
Drama Group Rehearsal/Coursework Catch Up	Year 11	See teacher
Music Course Work Catch up	Year 11	MU2
Physics Revision - Triple (Week B)	Year 11	SC5
French Club	Year 9	LA6
Photography GCSE (Miss Ivens' class)	Year 9-11	AR2
French Homework Club	Year 7 and 8	LA6

FRIDAY

Before School/Lunchtime:

Homework Club (BEFORE SCHOOL)	All Years	Library
GCSE Table Tennis (LUNCH)	Year 11	Gym
Biology Revision (Week B) (LUNCH)	Year 11	SC6

After School:

History Revision	Year 11	HI1
Girls Football	Year 8	Front Field
Geography	Year 11	GY1
Homework Club	All Years	Library
Maths Drop In	Sixth Form	SF04
Art/Photography Coursework Support	Year 11	Art
Drama Group Rehearsal/Coursework Catch Up	Year 11	See teacher
Photography GCSE (Mrs Moran's class)	Year 10	AR3/1
Art GCSE (Mrs Moran's Class)	Year 10-11	AR3/1