



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well.

I'd like to start this week's newsletter by asking for your support in reiterating with your son/daughter the messages which appear on page 2 of this newsletter. It is essential that schools are tightly-run and that excellent behaviour is maintained at all times so that teachers can teach, children can learn and that everyone is safe and feels safe. Whilst the overwhelming majority of our students behave superbly at all times in our school, a small minority are currently not meeting our expectations. Thank you for your support.

Class Charts App – Please download! It's really encouraging that so many of our parents/carers have downloaded the Class Charts app, now nearly 1000 – Thank you! For those parents/carers who have downloaded the app, I hope that you're finding it extremely beneficial and supportive. Please remember to regularly open the app and check in with your son/daughter's rewards and behaviour indicators. Please, if you haven't done so already, download the app via Apple or Android, sign in and start to receive these valuable updates. Remember both rewards and sanctions pull through and notify you in real time, so checking in with the app on a daily basis will help keep you on top of how your son/daughter is behaving. The app will also increasingly be used to communicate important information to parents/carers. Any questions, please contact the school. We're happy to help.

The Great Debate is a public speaking competition where students have five minutes to present their speech arguing their answer to the question: Why does history matter to me? The students must demonstrate research as well as historical arguments. Higham Lane Sixth Form Historians competed superbly, holding their own against some of the top private and grammar schools in the Midlands. Well done to all involved and particularly Izzie who received a runner up certificate for being in the top 3 debaters!

Well done to all of the students who were involved in The Gotta Dance 22 show at Albany Theatre, Coventry on Tuesday evening. A group of Year 8 and 9 students have been working hard over the past couple of months during their extra-curricular club to choreograph and perform a contemporary dance to an audience of 600 people. They have worked extremely hard in order to put together a routine that they can all be proud about. This was Higham Lane School's first time at the event and they performed with confidence and grace. Well done again to everyone involved!

On Wednesday one of our Year 10 Drama groups had the opportunity to work with an outside theatre company called The SpeakUp Theatre group. One of the group is a Higham Lane alumni student, Ruth Phillips. The all-girl class were helping the company during the devising phase of their project, in which they are making a play about girls experience of secondary school. The group held a workshop in their lesson where they took part in games and made freeze frames and narration about their experience of secondary school. The group also recorded the students' voices and their comments and opinions will be used to help make a script and some of the recordings will appear in the final play, which will be performed in a professional theatre next year. The students made some amazing contributions and the group were really pleased about how articulate our students were and how much energy they put into taking part in the activities. The students also enjoyed the discussion about future careers in the theatre and in drama, they left the workshop feeling inspired.

For this week's talk as part of the Memorable Moments Passport scheme, we were fortunate to have Paula Inglis as our speaker who spoke to our students about law and big business. Paula gave an insight into not only the fascinating work she does in corporate and real estate law, but also made the students see the vital importance of understanding the world around them and how it impacts their lives. According to Mr Bottrill, the students enjoyed it so much, they stayed after the talk had finished to take part in a quiz!

In this week's sports fixtures, Y7A and Y7B netball teams both won against King Henry VIII on Monday.

In last week's newsletter I mentioned that 3 of our students were representing Warwickshire in cross country. The Inter County race was this year hosted by the West Midlands in Dudley on an undulating course and took place on November 19th. Charlie in Year 9, Sophie in Year 7 and Evie in Year 10 all ran superbly and helped Warwickshire win the inter county championship for the first time ever. All three students qualified and were selected to represent Warwickshire at the Inter Counties Cross Country championships, a fantastic achievement for them all.

And finally news on a couple of former students. Dan Edmonds who left Higham Lane in the Summer having completed his GCSEs made his debut for the Nuneaton Borough 1st team on Tuesday this week aged 16. Dan is one of the youngest players to represent the club. Well done Dan. Asmita Ale, a former Higham Lane School and then Higham Lane Sixth Form student, currently plays in defence for Tottenham in the FA Women's Superleague and featured in a live televised game on the BBC last weekend which you may have caught sight of. Asmita was a superb footballer throughout her time at Higham Lane, and featured in the England U17, U18 and U19 teams during her time at the School. We wish her well for the future.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Acting Headteacher

This week we have asked for your views as parents.

Gaining your feedback is an important part of the work we do; celebrating strengths with staff and always seeking to improve our practice to benefit the education we provide for your son/daughter. Please kindly take a few moments to complete the survey before next Thursday for the year group that your son/daughter is presently in – you can find the link attached to this week's newsletter if you haven't already done this. Thank you – we really appreciate your feedback.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HLS_ParentView_Year7_Questionnaire

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HLS_ParentView_Year8_Questionnaire

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HLS_ParentView_Year9_Questionnaire

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HLS_ParentView_Year10_Questionnaire

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HLS_ParentView_Year11_Questionnaire

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HighamLane6thForm_Parentview_Year12_Questionnaire

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HighamLane6thForm_ParentView_Questionnaire_Year13

Maintaining the excellent standard of behaviour at Higham Lane School

I would really appreciate it if you could support the following key messages at home:-

- One of our basic expectations is that students do as they are instructed first time by a member of staff and do not to get into a conversation or begin answering back about whether they should be doing it or questioning what the member of staff has just said. Students should follow instructions first time from all members of staff.
- Arrive in lessons on time and remain in the classroom unless given permission to leave by your teacher
- We expect politeness and good manners at all times and staff are expected to role model this themselves. Students should respond to a member of staff with: 'Yes Miss/Sir.' 'Please' and 'Thank you' are also important. If a student needs to ask a question, they should say, 'Excuse me Sir/Miss, can you tell me' etc.
- Messing about and horseplay on the playground and pushing and shoving in break and lunch queues are not tolerated. Such behaviour can lead to health and safety concerns and dangerous incidents.
- Students should not take their tie or blazer off unless given permission to do so during the day at break or lunch or touch or remove other students' ties.
- Uniform expectations and personal appearance should be followed at all times, as clearly stated in the Student Organiser, for example, regarding school coats, skirts, earrings, black trainers, hairstyles and so on.
- The School's rules regarding phones are very clear. Some schools ban students from taking phones into school; we do not. We simply say that phones should not be seen or heard. Phones should be turned off and out of sight, including on the playground. Students seen with their phones out during the school day can expect them to be confiscated and a sanction issued.
- Some schools have silent corridors! We choose not to do this but we do expect appropriate behaviour on corridors. There should not be shouting and loud voices down the corridors. Students should talk quietly as they move between classes. This is helping students to practise social interactions in a mature manner.
- The canteen is our school restaurant. Students' behaviour there should be like it is when they go out for a meal in a restaurant. They should be polite to members of staff who are serving them food and supervising them. Students should take their rubbish with them and place it in a bin.
- Students who have an issue with another student, must walk away and inform a member of staff. Not doing this, causes things to escalate.
- If a student has a concern during the day, they must report it to a member of staff. They should not phone home. A student phoning home is breaking the rules by using their phone and also often causing unnecessary anxiety to parents who do not hear the full story or may be working at the time. If it is an issue in school, please allow staff to try and deal with it in school.
- Students should not get involved in something which doesn't concern them and stir things up.

Bulletin board

Year 7 and 8

Warwickshire Secondary Book Award

We are looking for some keen readers in Years 7 and 8 to take part in the Warwickshire Secondary Book Award. If you would like to take part – please pop into the Library to see Mrs Turner or Mrs Gunn to register your interest. You will have the opportunity to vote for which book you think should win the award from the 6 books on the shortlist. We will have regular meetings to chat about the books, quizzes and competitions and hopefully the opportunity to attend the Awards Ceremony in Warwick on 23rd March 2023 to meet some of the authors.



Year 10

Work Experience - Deadline

There are only 23 days until the work experience deadline so if you haven't already please complete your form either online or print off the form and bring it to the careers office in the library!

There are still places available at Weddington Primary School so please hand in your letter if you are interested!

This needs to be done as soon as possible! If you have any questions please come to the careers office in the library.

Year 11

Year 11 – Parents Progress Evening – Thursday 8th December 2022

The booking system to book appointments for the year 11 parents progress evening will open on Wednesday 30th November at 6pm. Further information on how to book will be sent out shortly. These appointments are by video only.

Year 12

Work Experience - Deadline

There are only 23 days until the work experience deadline so if you haven't already please complete your form either online or print off the form and bring it to the careers office in the library!

This needs to be done as soon as possible! If you have any questions please come to the careers office in the library!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 1st December

Year 13 Progress Evening

Tuesday 6th December

Carol Service at St Nicolas Church

Post 16 Fair

Thursday 8th December

Year 11 Progress Evening

Wednesday 14th December

Christmas Concert

Friday 16th December

End of term

Monday 19th December to Monday 2nd January 2023 (Inclusive)

Christmas holidays

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Students return to School

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!